

# Emerging Markets Debt Fund

## Fund at a glance

Retail Class  
TEDLX

Retirement Class  
TEDTX

Premier Class  
TEDPX

Institutional Class  
TEDNX

Advisor Class  
TEDHX

Inception Date  
9/26/2014

Benchmark  
JPMorgan EMBI Global  
Diversified Index<sup>1</sup>

Number of Holdings  
Approximately 170

The TIAA-CREF Emerging Markets Debt Fund invests primarily in U.S. dollar-denominated sovereign and corporate bonds of issuers located in emerging market regions while also pursuing incremental returns through investments in securities that are denominated in local currencies.

## Fund objective

The Fund seeks a favorable, long-term total return through income and capital appreciation, by investing primarily in a portfolio of emerging markets fixed-income investments.

## Investment philosophy

- Investments in emerging markets debt present an opportunity to realize attractive risk-adjusted returns based on secular trends observed across many emerging markets regions.
- Undervalued bonds can be identified by using both top-down analysis of sovereign issuers and bottom-up credit analysis.
- Allocations among sovereign credits issued by emerging markets nations are guided by an assessment of regional macroeconomic trends and developments affecting legal systems, infrastructure and creditor rights.
- Within countries for which we hold a favorable view, we will consider investing in quasi-sovereign and non-sovereign credits, based on a bottom-up assessment of the issuer and an assessment of its relative value.

## Key distinctions

- A research-intensive investment process that incorporates top-down and bottom-up elements, in order to effectively take advantage of opportunities across sovereign and non-sovereign emerging markets issuers.
- Strategic exposure to U.S. dollar-denominated emerging markets bonds, while seeking additional risk-adjusted returns through allocations to non-benchmark corporate and local currency-denominated securities.
- Experienced team: Portfolio managers and senior investment professionals, including regionally focused sovereign and corporate research analysts and dedicated emerging markets-focused traders.
- Careful attention to risk management: Including running daily risk analytics and performance attribution versus the Fund's benchmark.

1. The EMBI® Global Diversified Index is a uniquely-weighted version of the EMBI® Global Index. It limits the weights of those index countries with larger debt stocks by only including specified portions of these countries' eligible current face amounts of debt outstanding. The countries covered in the EMBI® Global Diversified Index are identical to those covered by the EMBI® Global Index (The EMBI® Global tracks total returns for U.S. dollar-denominated debt instruments issued by emerging market sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities: Brady bonds, loans and Eurobonds.)

## Investment process

### Top-down global macro view

- Macroeconomic fundamentals and trading technicals influence sector allocation by lead portfolio manager: Corporate vs. sovereign, USD vs. local currency
- Global macro outlook will impact risk positioning vs. the index and may influence regional exposure limits
- Sovereign investability outlook influences acceptable opportunity set: Quasi-sovereign, corporates, local currency corporates

### Emerging market debt portfolios

### Bottom-up credit analysis

- Sovereign credit, currency, rates analysis focus on balance of payments, political trends, GDP growth dynamics, monetary policy
- Corporate analysis focuses on cash flow leverage, working capital, profitability drivers
- Internal ratings assist in relative-value recommendations

Extensive and rigorous research seeks to identify undervalued securities and to outperform the long-term performance of the JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index.

### Establishing the eligible investment universe

1. **Global macro analysis:** Emerging markets debt opportunities are considered in relation to global economic, political and market conditions, including conditions within developed countries.
2. **Investability analysis:** Examine overall country risk to assess investable universe beyond the hard currency sovereign debt, which also helps determine our out-of-benchmark policy.
3. **Fundamental analysis:** Bottom up fundamental analysis performed on all segments: Hard currency sovereigns, hard currency corporates, and local market debt.
4. **Relative value analysis:** Relative value analysis provides an in-depth qualitative assessment of incremental yield versus incremental risk.

## Management team

### Katherine Renfrew, Managing Director

Joined TIAA in 1997, 24 years of investment experience

### Anupam Damani, CFA, Managing Director

Joined TIAA in 2005, 21 years of investment experience

## About TIAA Global Asset Management

Born from a legacy of making a difference, TIAA Global Asset Management has been committed to serving the best interests of our institutional, intermediary and individual clients for nearly 100 years. Among the world's largest global managers, TIAA Global Asset Management draws on deep expertise to deliver long-term performance across multiple asset classes: fixed income, equities, directly-owned real estate and alternatives.

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The Fund will invest in bonds subject to credit and interest rate risk. The Fund is subject to market and other risk factors. Investing in non-U.S. markets involves additional risks, including currency fluctuations and controls, restrictions on foreign investments, less governmental supervision and regulation, less liquidity and the potential for market volatility and political instability. In addition, investing in emerging markets may involve a relatively higher degree of volatility.

You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Please call 877-518-9161 or go to [TIAA.org](http://TIAA.org) for a current prospectus that contains this and other information. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. Investment, insurance and annuity products are not FDIC insured, are not bank guaranteed, are not bank deposits, are not insured by any federal government agency, are not a condition to any banking service or activity, and may lose value.

TIAA Global Asset Management provides investment advice and portfolio management services through TIAA and over a dozen affiliated registered investment advisers. Nuveen is an operating division of TIAA Global Asset Management.

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