

Azimut Pakistan Equity Fund (OEIC) PLC

A – Share (Distribution)

March 2022



AZIMUT
DEFINING INVESTMENT DIRECTION

KEY INFORMATION

Currency..... USD
Fund Inception date..... April 20, 2019
Initial offering Period..... November 2019
Available Class..... Class A Share
ISIN..... AEDFXA3CN091
Bloomberg Ticker..... AZIPAKA UH
Fund Domicile..... DIFC
Asset Class..... Islamic Pakistan Equities
Investment Strategy..... Flexible approach with possibility to hold Sharia Compliant Pakistan Equities and / or Fixed Income between 0% and 100%.
Minimum Investment..... USD 1,000
Management Fees..... 2.5% per annum
NAV publication..... Daily
Subscriptions / Redemptions..... Daily
Target Distribution..... 6% p.a. (paid quarterly)
Sharia Board..... Amanie Advisors
Investment Manager..... Azimut (DIFC) Limited (Azimut)
Investment Advisor... Alfalah GHP Investment Management Limited (Alfalah Investments)
Custodian..... Linear Investments Limited
Fund Administrator... APEX Fund Services (Dubai) Limited
Auditor..... Grant Thornton

KEY OBJECTIVES

Capital appreciation by investing on a Shari'a-compliant basis, directly or indirectly, in listed equities and equity related securities of companies that are domiciled in Pakistan and/or, entities which have at least 50% of their total turnover generated in Pakistan.
 The manager can invest in fixed income Sharia compliant securities to reduce the exposure to equities and manage volatility at his own discretion.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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In emerging markets, the risks can be greater than in developed markets. Investments in derivative instruments entail specific risks that may increase the risk profile of the fund and are more fully described in the Fund's Prospectus. If the fund invests in a specific sector or geographical area, the returns may be more volatile than a more diversified fund.

The investment activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Shariah Guidelines. As a consequence, the performance of a Fund may possibly be lower than other investment funds that do not seek to strictly adhere to the Islamic investment criteria. The Shariah Supervisory Board of Amanie Advisors LLC has certified that the Fund is in compliance with the requirements of the Shariah principles.

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Market Comment

The average inflation for March'22 came in at 12.7% y/y, [Feb'22: 12.2%; Mar'21: 9.1%] – fourth consecutive reading over 12%. Alike previous months, Food and transportation have been the major contributors to such high numbers. 9MFY22 inflation averages at 10.74% and is expected to settle +11% for the year.

Current account deficit has crossed USD12bn mark in 8MFY22 vs. a surplus of USD994mn in SPLY. Imports have grown at a much faster pace, fueled mainly by higher prices, coupled with machinery (under TERF). On the other hand, Remittances have started to lose pace (barring March'22) – this could be critical given exports have had a comparatively weaker growth. Trade numbers for March are also high, however, strong remittances of USD2.8bn (probably because of Ramadan effect) should keep the deficit in check. Going forward, import bill will continue to test country to fullest – exports growth will be key to support the external position.

PKR has further slipped during the quarter – down 3.9%. While external woes are coming in play, debt repayments have also played a big part. Reserves drawdown has been strong, despite loan rollovers with China. Going forward, resumption of the IMF program will be a key development as it will unlock doors to additional USD3bn financing from the fund. CAD continues to be worrisome, any respite will support the currency.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) held an emergency meeting in the first half of April'22, where it hiked rates by 250bps – taking FYTD hikes to 525bps and policy rate to 12.25%. Outlook for inflation has deteriorated and risks to external stability persists. The rates are now mildly positive; Russia-Ukraine conflict stays an active circumstance which will direct the commodity prices. We expect the SBP to have a close look on these developments as the PKR has already absorbed a large portion of shock (discussed below).

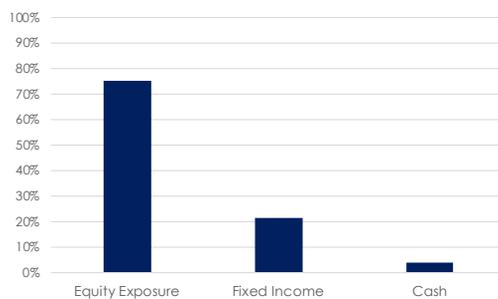
The Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) data for July-Feb'22 showed a pick-up in the economic activity: 4.6%. Pakistan's program with the IMF is on a temporary halt given the exchange of hands between governments. New government is hopeful of the program's resumption, which will be critical. The KMI-30 index in USD lost -2.3% in March.

Among the top index points contributors were i) Systems (SYS); ii) Engro Fertilizers (EFERT); iii) Engro Polymer & Chemicals (EPCL); iv) Millat Tractors (MTL); and v) Lucky Cement (LUCK). On the flip side, Pakistan Petroleum (PPL), Meezan Bank (MEBL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Oil & Gas Development Co. (OGDC), and Pakistan Oilfields (POL) were the major laggards.

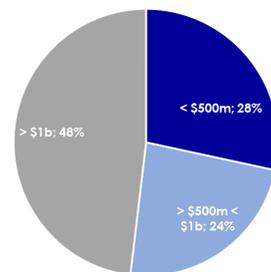
On valuation basis, market continues to trade at attractive multiples. Encouragingly, corporates have continued to report strong set of results which further supports the overall investment thesis. A potential; foreign inflow can come through since Pakistan has been classified to FM100.

However, the country is facing significant headwinds on the macro front, which is halting market's re-rating. PKR has faced significant slippage amidst ballooning CAD and debt repayments, whereas yields on local papers have spiked as well. SBP has already increased rates – still below interbank financing. With high rates, liquidity in the market will remain under duress. Globally, Russia-Ukraine situation is a key determinant – any respite in commodity prices will be a positive development.

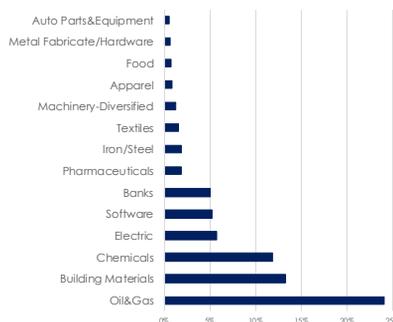
Asset Allocation



Market Cap



Sector Allocation



Distribution*

%	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Total
2020	0.54%	0.75%	1.5%	1.5%	4.3%
2021	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%		4.5%
					8.8%

* The distribution is expressed as a percentage of the initial NAV.

Top 10 Holdings

Engro Corp Ltd/Pakistan	7.0%	Systems Ltd	5.2%
Lucky Cement Ltd	6.6%	Mari Petroleum Co Ltd	5.1%
Hub Power Co Ltd/The	5.8%	Meezan Bank Ltd	5.0%
Oil & Gas Development Co Ltd	5.7%	Pakistan Petroleum Ltd	4.9%
Pakistan Oilfields Ltd	5.4%	Engro Fertilizers Ltd	3.1%

Source: All Fund data, Azimut and Bloomberg

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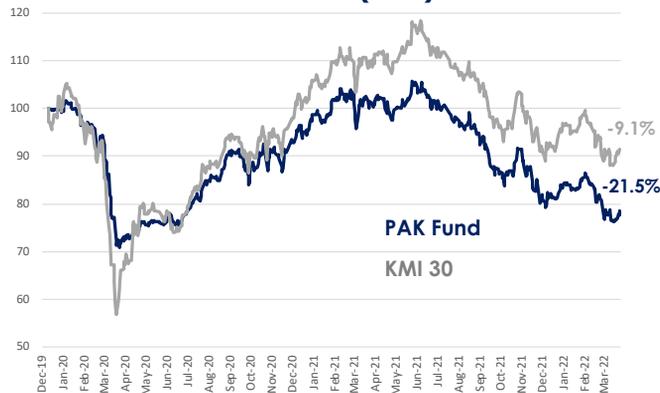
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Fund Facts

Total AuM (\$M)	6.2
Number of holdings (equities)	30
NAV (after income distribution)	71.0
YTD performance	-4.6%
MTD performance	-3.7%
PKR exposure	75.0%
USD exposure	25%
Performance since inception	-21.5%
Maximum Drawdown (Fund)	-30.4%
Maximum Drawdown (Index)	-46.0%
Volatility (Fund)	20.6%
Volatility (Index)	30.5%

Performance (USD)



Source: All Fund data, Azimut and Bloomberg

About Azimut and Alfalah Investments

- Azimut is Italy's largest independent asset manager, with USD 92 billion of managed investors' money and a investment centers in 18 countries, including Developed (Europe, Australia) and Emerging countries, (LATAM, Middle East and Asia).
- Alfalah Investments has a 15 year track-record in managing Pakistan Equities and Fixed Income. It has a wide distribution reach pan-Pakistan via 8 investment centers and 300 branches. It manages 17 local open ended funds/pension schemes with over 25+ different client product offerings .
- Both Azimut and Alfalah Investments have a long track record managing Islamic investments: Azimut currently manages the largest USD Sukuk fund worldwide while Alfalah Investments has a considerable portfolio of Islamic equity funds, Sukuk funds and Shariah compliance structured products. Shariah investments at Alfalah are the fastest growing asset class for the company.

Key investment themes

- Flexible approach with possibility to hold Sharia Compliant Pakistan Equities and/or Fixed Income between 0% and 100% to mitigate potential equity markets downturns.
- Actively managed fund: the portfolio management team can dynamically shifts investments from cyclical to defensive sectors, based on economic cycle.
- Fund seeks to take advantage of Pakistan stabilizing macro-economic environment and extremely cheap valuations.
- The key drivers of Pakistan economy are young and populous demographics of 200+ million people which are the key for a strong consumption and investment driven growth, with largely decouples underlying economic strength from the political cycle.
- The PKR is at very cheap levels following a 50%+ devaluation. The expectations are towards a stabilization or a mild depreciation as current account deficits have shrunk significantly and international foreign reserves are stable.
- With the interest rates easing cycle expected to start in 2020, we expect strong impetus on the stock market with a 17% earnings growth and 8%-9% dividend yield.

Sharia Supervisory Board

Amanie Advisors, a leading Shariah advisory firm, acts as the Shariah Board of the Azimut Pakistan Equity fund. Its international Shariah Supervisory Board includes widely respected scholars with undisputed reputation:

- Dr Mohamed Ali Elgari (Chairman, KSA)
- Dr Mohd Daud Bakar (Malaysia)
- Dr Muhammad Amin Ali Qattan (Kuwait)
- Dr Osama Al Dereai (Qatar)

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