# Wellington Global Impact Fund

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# MARKET REVIEW

Global equities rose in August despite significant market volatility. Exacerbated by an abrupt unwinding of the Japanese yen carry trade, equities fell precipitously at the beginning of August amid an uptick in recession risks and fears of excessively restrictive monetary policy in the US. However, markets rebounded amid optimism that the US economy can achieve a soft landing. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell cited an impending rate cut during his Jackson Hole symposium speech stating, "the time has come for policy to adjust." Against a backdrop of declining inflation and softening global economic growth, monetary policy easing gathered pace in August as the central banks of England, Sweden, New Zealand, and Mexico lowered interest rates. The Bank of Japan faces a higher bar to raise interest rates in October after its rate hike in July destabilized markets and caused a sharp spike in the yen. Global economic data was mixed, highlighted by broad signs of cooling inflation across the global, tepid growth in Europe hindered by weak manufacturing in Germany, and a softening US labor market. Geopolitical risks remained highly elevated; the war between Ukraine and Russia escalated after Ukrainian forces breached the Russian town of Kursk, while the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza continues to destabilize the region.

## FUND PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

- The Fund generated positive absolute returns in August and outperformed the MSCI All Country World Index benchmark.
- All Impact categories Human Empowerment, Life Essentials, Environment, and Multi-Theme contributed positively to absolute returns. Among the 11 impact themes, Health and Safety & Security contributed most to absolute returns. Meanwhile, Alternative Energy detracted from absolute performance.
- From an issuer perspective, GoDaddy was the top contributor to absolute performance. GoDaddy Inc (Digital Divide, US) enables small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop an online presence, which includes building websites and managing online marketing campaigns. In doing so, GoDaddy economically benefits small businesses, entrepreneurs, and society. Shares were up after GoDaddy reported strong quarterly results that illustrated solid growth and gains in efficiency.
- The top absolute detractor from performance was NEXTracker . NEXTracker (Alternative Energy, US), the market leading designer and manufacturer of solar trackers. Trackers are used in utility scale solar projects to adjust the angle of solar panels throughout the day to track the path of the sun, thus offering greater energy generation. The share price was down following pressure on the sector due to regulatory bottlenecks that are delaying projects. We continue to like the stock and believe that they can be longer term winners in the space.

# FUND POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK

While broadly diversified across the Fund's three impact categories and 11 impact themes, at the end of August we had allocated the most capital to the Resource Efficiency, Health, and Safety & Security impact themes.

We remain excited about the opportunities we are seeing across the investment universe. We believe the market has started to recognize the downstream impacts of generative AI on increased demand for power generation that has bolstered our conviction in utility scale solar, which has benefitted our holding in First Solar. Within our Health theme, we are excited by the innovation taking place across a number of companies and the attractive combination of defensive characteristics and compelling growth opportunities. We continue to diversify the portfolio and invest in high quality companies that we believe should be able to successfully navigate a variety of macro environments. Looking ahead, we continue to see our companies are supported by long term structural demand for innovative products and services seeking to address the world's greatest challenges. We anticipate that additional market breadth, when it comes, will be supportive of our portfolio. We remain ever thankful for your support.

### RISKS

**CAPITAL:** Investment markets are subject to economic, regulatory, market sentiment and political risks. All investors should consider the risks that may impact their capital, before investing. The value of your investment may become worth more or less than at the time of the original investment. The Fund may experience a high volatility from time to time. **CONCENTRATION:** Concentration of investments within securities, sectors or industries, or geographical regions may impact performance. **CURRENCY:** The value of the Fund may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. Unhedged currency risk may subject the Fund to significant volatility. **EMERGING MARKETS:** Emerging markets may be subject to custodial and political risks, and volatility. Investment in foreign currency entails exchange risks. **EQUITIES:** Investments may be volatile and may fluctuate according to market conditions, the performance of individual companies and that of the broader equity market. **HEDGING:** Any hedging strategy using derivatives may not achieve a perfect hedge. **SMALL AND MID-CAP COMPANY:** Small and mid-cap companies' valuations may be more volatile than those of large cap companies. They may also be less liquid. **SUSTAINABILITY:** A Sustainability Risk can be defined as an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or potential material negative impact on the value of an investment.

### PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PREDICT FUTURE RETURNS. AN INVESTMENT CAN LOSE VALUE.

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