Technical Partner - IIRA, Bahrain | JV Partner - CRISL, Bangladesh

Date: January 8, 2018

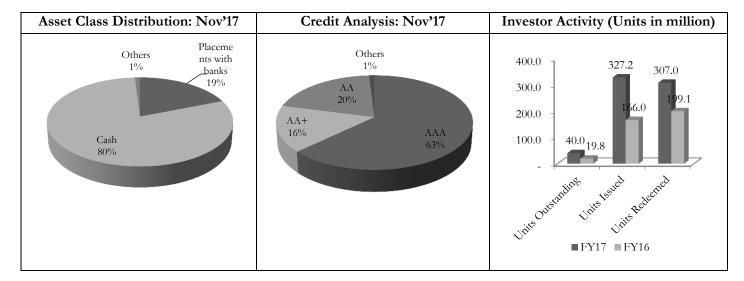
Analyst: Talha Iqbal

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## **Investment Objective**

To provide high liquidity and competitive returns to investors while seeking maximum possible preservation of capital through investment in low risk and Shariah Compliant instruments

Al-Ameen Islamic Cash Fund (Formerly UBL Islamic Cash Fund)				
Rating Category	Latest	Previous		
Fund Stability Rating	AA(f)	AA(f)		
	Dec 29, 2017	Dec 29, 2016		
Management Company	UBL Fund Managers Ltd			
Fund Manager	Mr. Syed Sheeraz Ali			
External Auditors - Fund	BDO Ebrahim and Co			
Trustee	Central Depository Company Ltd.			
Front-end Load	Nil			
	10% of the Gross Earnings subject			
Management Fee	to a min. fee of 0.5% of net assets			
Management 1 cc	and a maximum fee of 1% of net			
	assets.			
Benchmark	3-month average deposit rates of 3			
	AA- rated Islamic banks or Islamic			
	windows of conventional banks as			
	selected by MUFAP.			



Al-Ameen Islamic Cash Fund (AICF) was launched in September 2012 by the name of UBL Islamic Cash Fund; later the fund name was changed in line with re-branding of all Islamic funds under the umbrella of UBL Fund Managers Limited (UBL FM).

During first half of FY17, net assets of the fund exhibited significant volatility. By end-FY17, fund size depicted sizeable growth to 4.0b (FY16: Rs. 1.9b). Net assets further increased to Rs. 7.7b at end-September 2017.

The funds has been designed to undertake exposure in a blend of short and medium to medium term money market instruments in order to generate competitive returns while strictly following the Islamic Shariah in selection of investments under the supervision of Shariah Advisory Committee.

The fund's assets may be deployed in money market instruments and Sukuk, with all issues/issuers subject to minimum rating criteria of 'AA' (Double A). Only exception to this rule include Islamic money market instruments related to NBFCs and Modarabas', which are subjected to a minimum rating of AAA. As per the internal Investment Policy Statement (IPS), the fund is required to allocate a minimum of 10% of net assets to cash or cash equivalents.

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Table 1: Prescribed Asset Allocation of AICF (% of Total Assets)

	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
	Limit	Limit	Rating
Cash & equivalents	10%	100%	AA
GoP Ijarah Sukuk	0%	70%	AA
Shariah compliant debt			
and money market			
securities issued by			
Provincial Government,	0%	25%	AA
Local Government,			
Government Agencies,			
Autonomous Bodies.			
Shariah compliant debt			
and money market			
securities issued by	0%	50%	AA
Public & Private Sector			
entities.			
COM/COD/COI	0%	70%	AA
Placements	0%	50%	AA
Others	0%	50%	AA

Similar to preceding fiscal year, majority of the funds were placed in cash and bank deposits during FY17. Counterparties are highly rated banks; in line with the investment criteria, exposure to credit risk remains low.

Table 2: Actual Asset Allocation of AICF (% of Total Assets)

	End-FY17	Average FY17
Placements with banks	0%	13%
Cash	95%	85%
Others	5%	2%

The fund's Weighted Average Maturity (WAM) is capped at 90 days while single asset maturity may be as high 6 months. During FY17, maximum WAM was reported at 18 days at end-December 2016. A review of WAM over the months shows that AICF's month-end WAM has remained significantly below the ceiling of 90 days. Resultantly, exposure to market risk is limited.

The fund is benchmarked against 3-month average deposit rates of 3 AA- rated Islamic banks or Islamic windows of conventional banks as selected by MUFAP. The fund outperformed the benchmark during the outgoing fiscal year. Overall return in FY17 was reported at 4.70% vis-à-vis benchmark return of 3.12%.

Unit holder concentration reduced in the outgoing year, with top 10 investors holding 15.3% (FY16: 29.8%) of the outstanding units at end-FY17 ICR-VIS

JCR-VIS Credit Rating Company Limited

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Rating Date	Medium to Long Term	Outlook	Short Term	Rating Action
	<u>RA</u> '	<b>TING TYPE: Fund Stab</b>	<u>ility</u>	
29-Dec-17	AA(f)		·	Reaffirmed
29-Dec-16	AA(f)			Reaffirmed
06-Jan-16	AA(f)			Reaffirmed
02-Jun-14	AA(f)			Initial