## Investment objective

SHUAA North America Equity Fund is an actively managed fund focused on maximizing capital growth through a diversified portfolio of Shariacompliant North America equities across most sectors in that region. The fund targets high-quality, high-growth businesses that we believe are currently undervalued.

## Fund Manager Commentary

The North America Equity Fund was up 1.8\% MoM in March (versus 2.5\% MoM S\&P 500 Shariah Index) translating to a $10.5 \%$ YTD return (vs 10.8\% YTD S\&P 500 Shariah Index).

March completed another strong quarter for equities with all sectors contributing as the current rally begins to broaden out from large technology companies. This can be seen in the outperformance of the S\&P up $3.1 \%$ and the smaller company index Russel 2000 up $3.4 \%$ compared to the technology heavy Nasdaq up $1.2 \%$. Geographically the rally has also spread with Canada up $3.9 \%$ and Mexico $4 \%$ also beating US technology stocks that have until now dominated.

Notable elements of the quarter have been rising yields, stubbornly high inflation and relatively weak economic performances outside of the US. Normally these could be seen as negative drivers for equity markets, however the enthusiasm around AI and technology generally, coupled with US economic resilience and a relatively dovish Fed despite the stronger economy has driven shares higher. The market was led by the Energy and Materials sectors as that stronger economic growth in the US, hope of further stimulus in China and increasing geopolitical risk sending the oil price higher were all supportive. Industrials and Communication Services also had good months on the economic growth outlook, although Consumer Discretionary stocks lagged due to some weaker than expected results from sector heavyweights such as Nike and Lululemon.

In the fund major contributors came from some familiar names with Nvidia continuing to be a market favorite, adding another $14 \%$. Alphabet also rallied $9 \%$ on optimism around their future growth prospects from Al. In response to a higher oil price ConocoPhillips added $13 \%$ and Exxon $11 \%$. On the downside Elastic fell $25 \%$ as despite extremely strong growth last quarter driven by strong take up of their Al driven products, they flagged a slightly slower next quarter which saw some profit taking. Adobe lost $10 \%$ as investors worry about Al competition potentially eroding demand for their core media products, despite reporting strong numbers. Apple also continued to underperform on more evidence that demand for their iPhones continues to be weak both in China and Western markets.

Equity markets remain quite highly valued in the US with more reasonable valuations in other geographic regions. With the Fed likely to keep rates higher than previously thought then equities may find it harder to continue to rally over the summer unless earnings growth picks up again. Outside of the large technology stocks valuations however are more reasonable and the market may continue to favor some of these purely on a relative valuation basis. We continue to like growth names within the technology sector but also those high-quality sectors such as staples and health care that should do well even if economic growth is eventually slowed by high interest rates.

## Return Statistics

|  | MTD | $3 M$ | $6 M$ | YoY | YTD | Inception |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SHUAA North America Equity | $1.8 \%$ | $10.5 \%$ | $20.4 \%$ | $24.9 \%$ | $10.5 \%$ | $30.1 \%$ |
| S\&P 500 Shariah Index | $2.5 \%$ | $10.8 \%$ | $23.3 \%$ | $30.8 \%$ | $10.8 \%$ | $41.4 \%$ |

## Fund Returns Since Inception



| Fund Facts |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Inception Date | Dec 2022 |
| Domicile | Abu Dhabi Global <br> Markets |
| Fund Currency | USD |
| Asset Class | Equities |
| Geography | North America |
| Type | Islamic |
| ISIN | AE000A3CSWS2 |
| Number of Holdings | 31 |
| Subscriptions/Fees | Daily / 0\% |
| Redemptions/Fees | Daily / 0\% |
| Leverage | 0\% |
| TER / Management | $1.9 \% / 1.5 \%$ |
| Fee | Jacob Robbins |
| Fund Manager | Aarthi |
| Chandrasekaran |  |

## Portfolio Statistics

## Fund AUM

\$28.7m
NAV per Share

## Performance

Annualised return 22.1\%
Sharpe ratio 1.5
Tracking error 4.1\%

## Regional Allocation



## Sector Allocation



| Top Five Holdings (Excluding cash) |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Microsoft Corp | $11.8 \%$ |
| Alphabet Inc - CL A | $7.3 \%$ |
| Nvidia Corp. | $7.1 \%$ |
| Amazon.com INC | $6.7 \%$ |
| Apple Inc | $6.1 \%$ |


| Fund Metrics |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| Dividend Yield | $1.3 \%$ |
| PB (12m Forward) | $13.9 x$ |
| PE (12m Forward) | $24.6 x$ |
| EV/EBITDA (12m Forward) | 17.8 |
| RoE | $43.9 \%$ |


| Sector MTD Performance |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| Energy | $10.4 \%$ |
| Utilities | $6.3 \%$ |
| Materials | $6.2 \%$ |
| Financials | $4.7 \%$ |
| Communication Services | $4.3 \%$ |
| Industrials | $4.3 \%$ |
| Consumer Staples | $3.2 \%$ |
| Health Care | $2.2 \%$ |
| Information Technology | $1.9 \%$ |
| Real Estate | $1.1 \%$ |
| Consumer Discretionary | $0.0 \%$ |


| Top Five Performers (March) |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Nvidia Corp. | $14.2 \%$ |
| Wolfspeed Inc | $13.4 \%$ |
| Conocophillips | $13.1 \%$ |
| EXXON MOBIL CORP | $11.2 \%$ |
| Alphabet Inc - CL A | $9.0 \%$ |
| Asset Management Sales |  |
| Omar Danish |  |
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Bottom Five Performers (March)

| Elastic NV | $-25.1 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Adobe Systems Inc | $-9.9 \%$ |
| Marqeta Inc- A | $-8.7 \%$ |
| Apple Inc | $-5.1 \%$ |
| Salesforce.Com Inc | $-2.5 \%$ |

## Address

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