

# Artisan Emerging Markets Local Opportunities Fund

QUARTERLY  
Commentary

Artisan Partners Global Funds plc

As of 31 December 2023

For Institutional Investors—Not for Onward Distribution

## Investment Process

We employ in-depth fundamental research and robust operational capabilities across a broad opportunity set to uncover knowledge gaps that can lead to idiosyncratic opportunities with compelling risk-adjusted return potential.

## Organizational Structure

We have a flat and collaborative organization where portfolio managers and analysts communicate daily and share the responsibility of idea generation. Portfolio managers and analysts determine their own focus areas and pursue them from an idea generation perspective. Trading and implementation is embedded within the investment team, as trading capabilities and infrastructure are considered important components of our investment process.

## Idea Generation Through Broad Investment Universe

Our team covers a broad spectrum of global markets comprising investable assets across more than 100 countries. We constantly perform fundamental country research and monitor financial markets in order to understand each country's policy environments and how important policy moments may alter their investment environment. Our corporate analysis includes decomposing yields and examining corporate liquidity and solvency risks. We integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) analysis at the country and corporate levels.

## Portfolio Implementation

We analyze investment opportunities from a risk factor perspective—the forces that drive securities and instruments prices. The investment team and trading and implementation team work together to consider which instruments may provide optimal risk-adjusted returns. The trading and implementation team expands our investment universe by understanding and overcoming investment barriers.

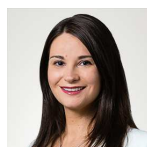
## Team Overview

We are a seasoned investment team with strong continuity across decision makers. Our group's core has been together for more than 10 years prior to its evolution at Artisan Partners, and our group's leadership has been investing in emerging markets since 2005. Our coverage areas are generally defined geographically, with some PM/Analysts and research associates focused on corporates.

## Portfolio Management



Michael A. Cirami, CFA  
Portfolio Manager



Sarah C. Orvin, CFA  
Portfolio Manager

## Investment Results (%)

As of 31 December 2023	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
Class I USD—Inception: 20 Jul 2022	8.50	15.19	15.19	—	—	—	14.25
J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (USD)	8.07	12.70	12.70	—	—	—	13.12

## Annual Returns (%) Trailing 12 months ended 31 December

Class I USD	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
—	—	—	—	—	15.19

Source: Artisan Partners/J.P. Morgan. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized.

**Past performance does not predict future returns.** Performance is NAV to NAV, including reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, if any, and is net of fees and expenses, excluding any subscription or redemption charges which may be levied. At the moment, the Fund does not intend to charge subscription or redemption fees. The Fund may be offered in different share classes, which are subject to different fees, expenses and inception dates (which may affect performance), have different minimum investment requirements and are entitled to different services. Funds are actively managed and are not managed to a benchmark index.

**Investment Risks:** Investments will rise and fall with market fluctuations and investor capital is at risk. Investors investing in funds denominated in non-local currency should be aware of the risk of currency exchange fluctuations that may cause a loss of principal. These risks, among others, are further described near the back of this document, which should be read in conjunction with this material.



## Performance Discussion

The portfolio trended higher in Q4 as risk assets rallied. The portfolio outperformed the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index for the quarter and calendar year 2023. The index returned 8.07% for the fourth quarter and 12.70% for the calendar year.

## Investing Environment

After two consecutive years of negative fixed income returns, 2023 was stacking up to be a positive, but lackluster, year until Q4. Signs of moderation in the labor market and favorable inflation prints drove a departure from the higher-for-longer outlook on rates in the final two months of the year. The possibility of a soft landing came back into view, and the market began pricing in expectations for rate cuts in 2024. The 10-year US Treasury yields dropped by more than 100bps—coincidentally ending the year only a few basis points from where they started it—after briefly touching 5% in October. Against this backdrop, credit spreads tightened, the US dollar weakened, and risk assets, including emerging markets debt, soared.

Inflation continued to ease throughout the quarter, which prompted developed market central banks to hold rates steady, and many have indicated they are at or near the end of their rate hiking cycles. The Fed branched off from its peers when it delivered a more dovish outlook for rates at its December meeting, which included forecasting multiple rate cuts in 2024. This is at odds with its counterparts across the Atlantic, who remain reticent to declare victory against inflation. The ECB and BOE continue to push back against rate-cutting speculation and are stern that their work is not done yet. The Bank of Japan is the clear outlier, only just beginning its tightening cycle.

At the other end of the spectrum, many emerging markets central banks are well into their rate-cutting cycles, though dispersion within the cohort persists. Emerging markets countries reacted quickly to the spike in inflation following the COVID-19 pandemic and employed tight monetary and fiscal policy to keep inflation contained. Latin American and Eastern European countries led the pack with Brazil, Peru, Chile, Hungary and the Czech Republic all delivering rate cuts during the quarter. Inflation in many of these countries has even returned to its targeted range. In contrast, Angola, Kenya and Turkey all raised rates throughout the quarter. Indonesia unexpectedly hiked rates after foreign currency reserves declined at a historic pace.

US Treasuries provided a strong backdrop for risk assets in Q4, but local events across the globe continued to drive idiosyncratic returns. Currency performance for the quarter was generally positive as expectations for Fed rate cuts led to a weaker US dollar and stronger emerging markets currencies. In Colombia, high interest rates, declining imports and strong tourism supported the peso, which ended the year up by more than 25%. Thai local bonds rallied on the heels of cooling inflation and a recovering tourism sector. The Mexican economy has remained resilient, in part thanks to nearshoring, and seen renewed investor interest, which has supported a strong peso. In Poland, the election of a new pro-EU coalition government supported a strong zloty and lifted its local debt. Elsewhere, in Turkey, the lira declined after President Erdogan

won re-election earlier in the year and unexpectedly shifted toward more orthodox monetary policies and aggressively raised rates.

Emerging markets assets were at the mercy of movements in US Treasury yields for most of the year but remained resilient despite the uncertain macro environment. The outbreak of war in Israel at the beginning of Q4 added to the already precarious geopolitical environment. The EMSights team expects this landscape of elevated volatility and geopolitical uncertainty to continue into 2024, creating an environment that is ripe for active management and favors fundamental research.

## Portfolio Positioning

The portfolio continues to be conservatively positioned given repricing events during Q4 and the uncertain geopolitical environment. Portfolio duration is slightly underweight duration versus the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index. The portfolio is underweight local rates exposure in Africa and Asia, where inflation remains elevated and local political uncertainty continues to dominate headlines. Meanwhile, it is overweight local rates in Latin America, where inflation continues to cool. The portfolio is long currencies across regions, with the largest allocation to Eastern European currencies, where higher real rates present attractive opportunities. Throughout Q4, the portfolio increased exposure to sovereign credit in countries with improving fundamental stories and poised for upswings, specifically in Latin America.

In calendar year 2023, the top contributing countries to returns for the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index were Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. Top detracting countries were Turkey, Egypt and the Philippines.

The team continues to search for countries with improving storylines where market prices are not fully reflecting fundamentals. The global economy will face challenges in 2024, but there are several tailwinds that are likely to keep the emerging markets debt outlook strong. Expectations for declining inflation and fiscal consolidation in emerging markets will support the asset class, as well as monetary support from the official and private sectors. We believe sovereign defaults remain an ever-present risk and geopolitical tensions will create exploitable volatility events. Additionally, the upcoming year will be one of the largest election years on record, presenting ample opportunities for reforms to be made across the developed and emerging worlds.

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Notional value represents the portfolio's exposures based on the economic value of investments by adjusting for derivatives exposure to the market value of the contract's underlying security and accounts for the sensitivity to changes in price of the underlying security. In comparison, measuring the exposure of a derivative contract at market value or notional value can understate or overstate, respectively, the economic exposure and risk. This estimate of portfolio exposure is only an approximation of the portfolio at a point in time.

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