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# Columbia Threadneedle Investments CT Global Social Bond Fund Annual Report 2025

JANUARY 2026

*Whilst this Fund has sustainability characteristics, it does not have a UK Sustainability label under the FCA's Sustainability Disclosure Requirements. The use of the term "impact" in this report is consistent with the Fund's prospectus. References to impact are used in the Fund's pre-contractual documents to describe the Investment Manager's proprietary social assessment methodology.*

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This report was commissioned by CT Global Social Bond Fund and has been prepared by The Good Economy Partnership Limited (The Good Economy, or TGE), a leading independent impact advisory firm.

The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based on information obtained from interviews with and portfolio data from Columbia Threadneedle Investments. The information reviewed should not be considered as exhaustive and has been accepted in good faith as providing a faithful representation of the investment strategy and its underlying holdings. We have taken steps to ensure we do not intentionally or unintentionally inflate positive impact results or underreport negative impacts. However, we acknowledge there are limitations in the quantity and quality of data available. We have identified and explained the

effect of these limitations on the presentation of impact performance to the best of our ability.

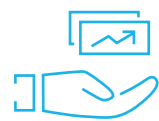
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# Executive Summary

The CT Global Social Bond Fund (“the Fund”) was launched in June 2023 as the latest addition to the Columbia Threadneedle Investments’ Social Bond Franchise, which also includes UK- and Europe-focused strategies. Its objective is to generate financial returns while delivering positive social outcomes across a range of needs, through investment in bonds issued by companies, governments, non-profit organisations, and charities engaged in socially beneficial activities.

As of June 2025, the Fund has achieved the following results:



**£75m invested**  
+17% annual increase

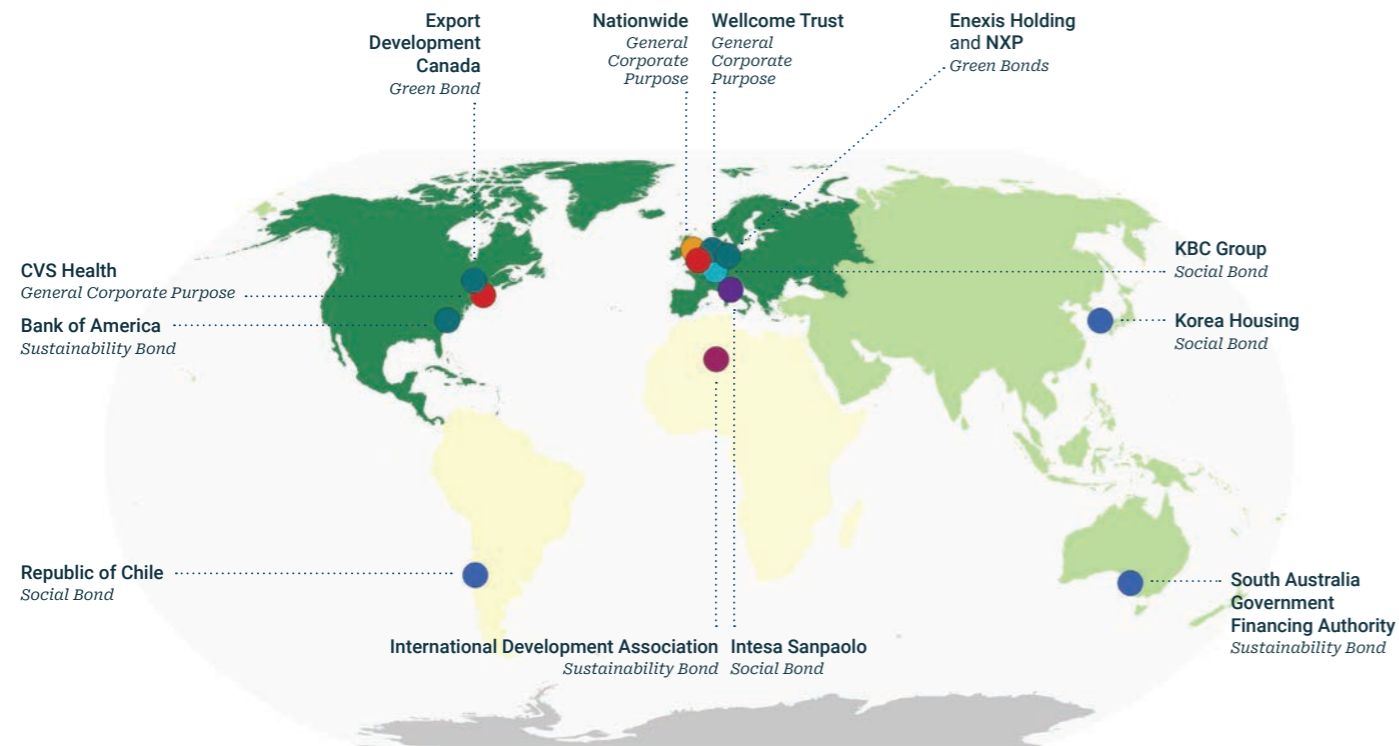


**In 178 bonds**  
+17%



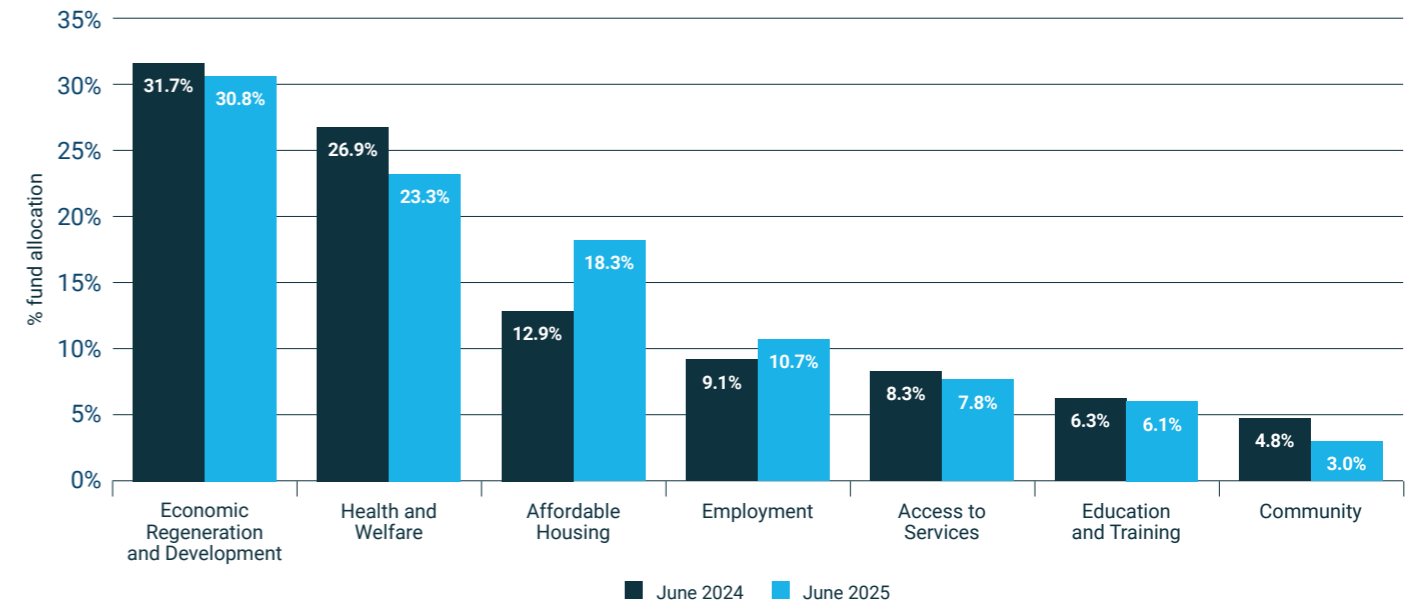
**From 141 issuers**  
+16%

## Regional mapping of the Fund’s investments, including selected holdings



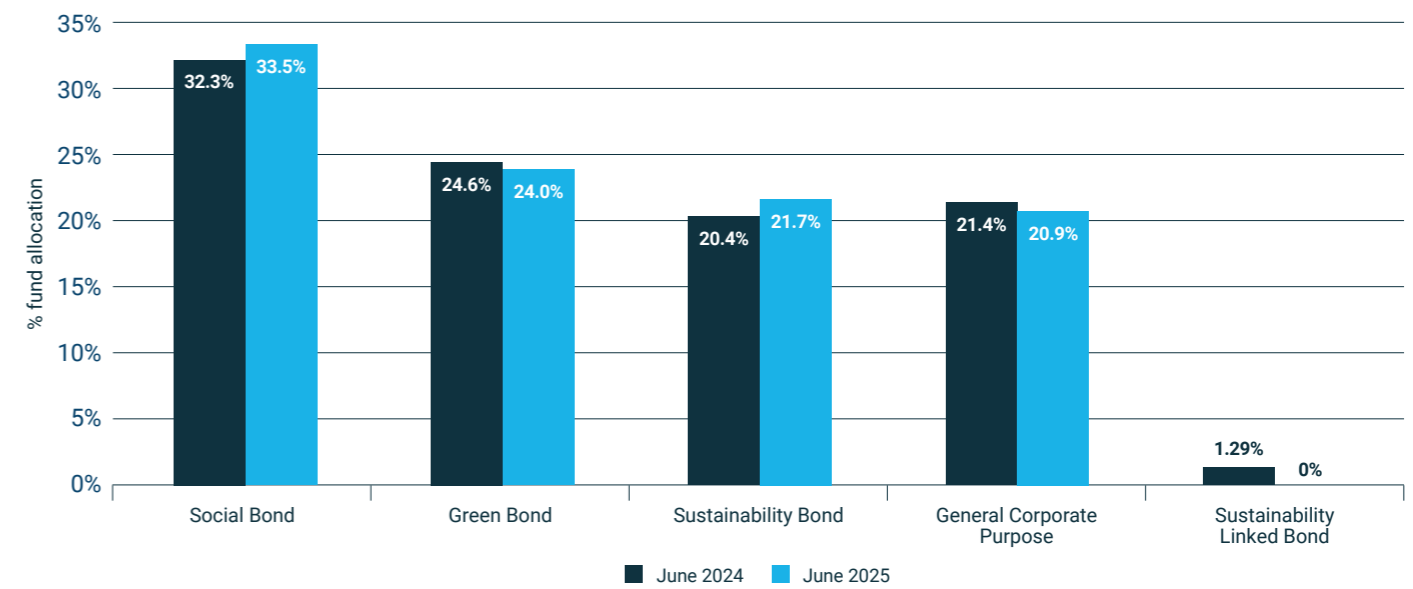
<b>Example Bonds by Outcome Area</b>	<b>Investment by Region (%)</b>
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Access to Services	<span style="background-color: #fff9c4;">■</span> 0.1–5%
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Affordable Housing	<span style="background-color: #c8e6c9;">■</span> 5.1–10%
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Community	<span style="background-color: #a1887f;">■</span> 10.1–20%
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> Economic Regeneration and Development	<span style="background-color: #66bb6a;">■</span> >20%
<span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Education and Training	
<span style="color: darkred;">■</span> Employment	
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Health and Welfare	

## Outcome area (by value)



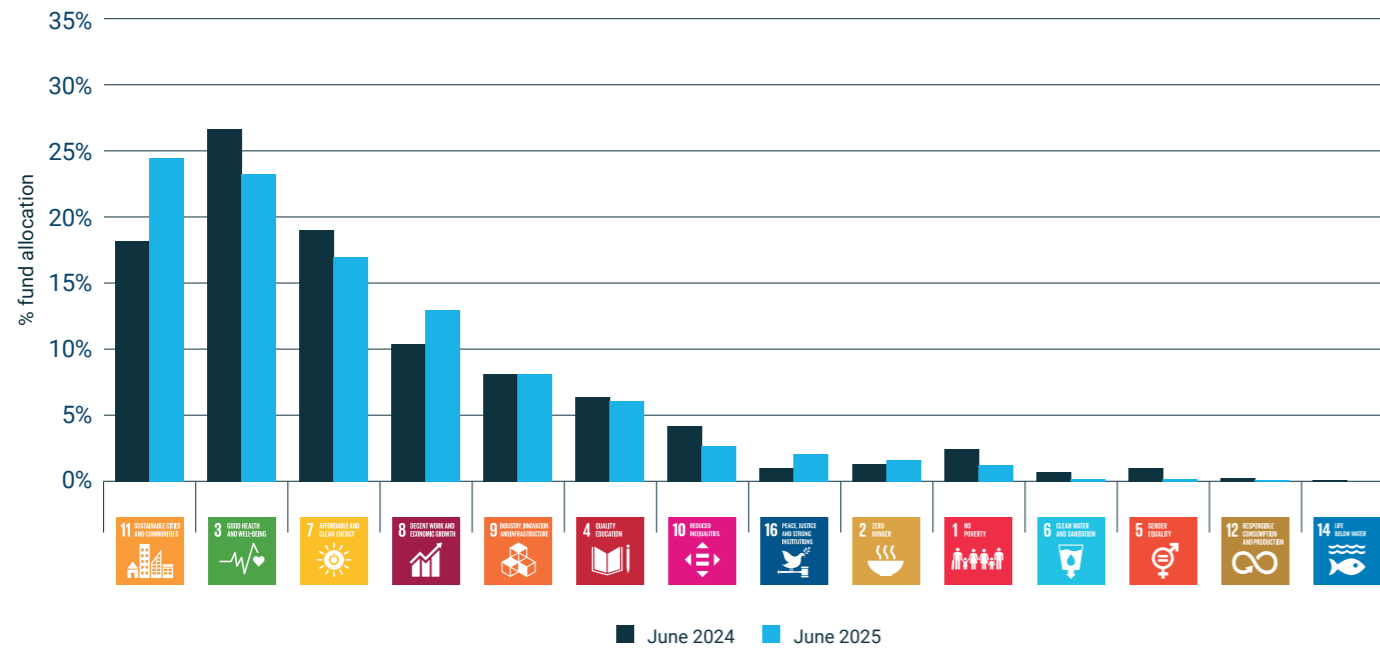
## Bond type (by value)

79.1% of Fund value across the portfolio has been allocated to specific use of proceeds bonds, with the remaining holdings being allocated to general corporate purpose bonds, which are assessed to contribute to positive social outcomes.



**UN SDG alignment (by value)**

The Fund is making the greatest contribution to SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, having surpassed SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, which represented the Fund’s greatest contribution in the June 2024 portfolio. There is also a substantial contribution being made to SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy.



**Social assessment methodology (by value)**

The Fund has developed a proprietary bond rating system (see page 12) which categorises bonds based on intentionality and intensity. It has two binding social performance targets based on this bond rating methodology, both of which it continues to comfortably exceed in 2025.

Target	June 2024	June 2025	Target met?
At least 30% of Fund value must be invested in 'A' high social intentionality bonds	52.8%	55.8%	✓
No more than 20% of Fund value can be invested in lower 'C3' or 'C4' socially rated bonds	5.3%	5.8%	✓

**Engagement framework and activity**

Columbia Threadneedle has conducted extensive engagement with bond issuers, engaging with 158 between June 2024 and June 2025 (96.8% response rate).<sup>1</sup> The majority of engagements were 1:1 with issuers and comprise of both outcomes- and insights-driven interactions.

**TGE's Reflections on the Fund's Contribution to Social Outcomes**

**Strengths**

- The Fund has increased the percentage of fund value invested in bonds purchased on the primary market from 36% to 52%, allowing for greater influence and additionality, and therefore positive social outcomes.
- Issuer engagement has been a major focus for the Fund, both to drive outcomes and gather insights. In the 12 months to June 2025, the Fund engaged with 158 issuers (96.8% response rate), strengthening its ability to influence issuers and contribute to positive social outcomes.
- The Fund continues to comfortably exceed both bond rating targets.

**Areas for improvement**

- The portfolio remains weighted towards 'Economic Regeneration and Development'; TGE would encourage a greater diversification into other outcome areas to maximise positive social outcomes. However, we acknowledge that substantial capital is needed to fund essential infrastructure improvements that ensure reliable access to critical services including providing people with water, warm homes and connectivity.
- Out of the five socio-economic focus categories, the lowest percentage of fund allocation in 2025 went to bonds with a 'Dedicated' socio-economic focus (most targeted towards disadvantaged populations), therefore a stronger focus on bonds within this focus category is encouraged. However, we acknowledge one of Columbia Threadneedle's key engagement areas is encouraging increased targeting towards in-need populations in listed assets.

1. Of 158 engagements, 153 issuers responded (96.8%); 5 issuers did not respond (3.2%).



# Entity Overview and Social Investment Thesis

## About the Fund

The CT Global Social Bond Fund (“the Fund”) was launched in June 2023. It is Columbia Threadneedle Investments’ latest social bond offering, following social bond strategies focused on the UK and Europe. The Fund aims to deliver both financial returns and contribute to positive social outcomes across a range of social needs through investing in bonds issued by companies, governments, non-profit organisations and charities that engage in socially beneficial activities.

The Fund is actively-managed and positively-screened, with each bond assessed and selected based on its potential to contribute to positive social outcomes. This assessment process is carried out following the Fund’s Social Investment Guidelines, which includes a proprietary Social Assessment Methodology to guide investment decisions.

### Fund governance

The Fund is overseen by a Social Advisory Committee, which plays a vital role in reviewing, advising and monitoring the implementation of the Fund’s Social Assessment Methodology. The Committee is composed of three members nominated by the fund’s independent social partner, The Good Economy, two members nominated by Columbia Threadneedle Investments and at least two independent appointees.

More details on the Social Advisory Committee, and the Fund’s general governance structure, can be found in the Social Investment Guidelines [here](#).

### SDR and product-level TCFD report

Whilst the fund has both a financial and a sustainable investment objective, it does not currently have a UK sustainable investment label under the FCA’s Sustainability Disclosure Requirements. Sustainable investment labels help investors identify products with specific sustainability goals.

The Fund produces an annual report in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) which includes an overview of greenhouse gas emissions and climate risk factors.

### About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

The CT Global Social Bond Fund is managed by Columbia Threadneedle Investments, the global asset management subsidiary of Ameriprise Financial. Formed in 2015, the firm serves clients worldwide through operations in 17 countries. It has over £500 billion assets under management,<sup>2</sup> spanning equities, fixed income, multi-asset, alternatives, and responsible investment.

## Pursuing Positive Social Outcomes Through the Public Bond Market

The Fund’s social investment thesis is underpinned by the view that bonds can offer distinct advantages for financing socially beneficial activities due to their **scale, scope, and targeting capabilities**:

- 1. Scale:** Bonds allow organisations to raise substantial long-term funding, aligning with the needs of complex social and environmental challenges. In 2024, \$1.1 trillion in Green, Social, Sustainability, and Sustainability-linked bonds were issued; this marks a 5% increase from 2023.<sup>3</sup> Sovereign and corporate debt totalled to over \$100 trillion in 2024.<sup>4</sup>
- 2. Scope:** Bond markets provide access to a broad range of issuers, including governments, mutuals, charities, and corporates, which are not always available in other

asset classes. The Fund uses a proprietary Social Rating methodology, allowing inclusion of both International Capital Markets Association (ICMA)-labelled bonds and general purpose corporate bonds which are deemed to contribute to social benefits.

- 3. Targeting:** Bonds can be structured to finance specific social or environmental goals, particularly through use-of-proceeds bonds that direct funding to specified projects and require ongoing reporting. This reporting requirement enhances the measurability of the outcomes achieved, with issuers required to disclose the bond’s key metrics through annual impact and allocation reports.

2. AUM as of 30th September 2025.

3. The World Bank – Labelled Sustainable Bonds Market Update February 2025.

4. OECD – Global Debt Report 2025.

### Addressing common preconceptions about pursuing social outcomes through the public bond market

Despite these clear advantages, there are common preconceptions that public bond markets are sometimes viewed as less directly impactful than private investments. These perceptions often overlook the ways in which bond investors can meaningfully influence outcomes and advance market standards for sustainable finance. The Fund’s experience demonstrates that these perceived challenges can be effectively addressed through intentional strategy and active engagement.

Unlike equity investors, bondholders are not shareholders, but they are nonetheless key stakeholders with significant leverage. Through structured engagement and collaboration, bond investors can shape issuer behaviour and promote stronger social and environmental practices. The Fund pursues an active engagement strategy designed to drive positive change, encouraging issuers to enhance transparency, strengthen use-of-proceeds frameworks, and adopt higher-impact issuance practices (see page 26 for more details on the Fund’s engagement approach).

- While secondary market transactions do not provide new capital directly to issuers, these transactions provide a signalling effect, as they do in equity markets, and there can still be opportunities to engage with issuers through secondary market purchases. To assess its performance in this area, the Fund monitors primary vs. secondary market allocations across its portfolio, as well as its engagement activity.
- Although general-purpose bonds may not link proceeds to specific projects, they still enable investors to influence entity-wide practices and outcomes. Through rigorous issuer analysis and engagement, investors can assess how capital supports support beneficiaries. The Fund applies a robust measurement framework to evaluate both the direct and systemic effects of such investments, demonstrating that impact can be achieved beyond narrowly defined use-of-proceeds models.

## About the Report

This report has been produced for the CT Global Social Bond Fund by The Good Economy (TGE). It is the second independent Annual Report for the Fund. The report covers the 12-month period to 30 June 2025.

The primary users of this report are assumed to be its providers of capital (i.e. investors and potential investors) that are making decisions about investment and engagement in expectation of financial returns and positive social outcomes. These primary users seek to understand the social investment thesis of the Fund and how bonds are screened and chosen, so that they can make informed investment and engagement decisions.

The research methodologies, data sources and associated evidence risk that inform the report are outlined in Appendix 1 and 2.

### Alignment to Impact Reporting Norms

This report has been prepared following guidance provided by Impact Frontiers’ [Impact Performance Reporting Norms](#). It should be noted that the current version of the Reporting Norms (Version 1) is designed for investors in private markets and so is not fully applicable to the CT Global Social Bond Fund as a public bond strategy.

Nonetheless, the Fund’s involvement with and adherence to the Norms (where possible) intends to support broader transparency in the market through promoting shared expectations for the reporting of impact results. In accordance with the Norms, the report has a balanced and evaluative style, as opposed to a more positive impact centric approach. In addition, through following the guidance of the Norms, the Fund aims to facilitate shared learning in terms of application of the Norms to public strategies as well as private ones.

### Statement of independence

TGE is an independent advisory firm specialising in impact measurement and management.

TGE has robust process in place to preserve our integrity and independence, as outlined in our Code of Practice. Before commencing with the Fund, we examined our suitability to take on the role of an independent review of impact performance and confirmed that there was no conflict of interest.

TGE were appointed by the CT Global Social Bond Fund at its launch in 2023, where we have sat on the Social Advisory Committee as the Fund’s social partner. In this role, we periodically review, monitor and advise on the application and development of the Fund’s Social Assessment Methodology as well as reviewing and challenging specific holdings on an ex-post basis, with the intention of promoting the social objectives of the Fund. However, we are not involved in investment decision-making and have no role in the management of the Fund. We therefore feel this does not represent a threat to our independence and are able to take an objective opinion on impact performance.

# Investment Management Approach

## Outcomes Diagram

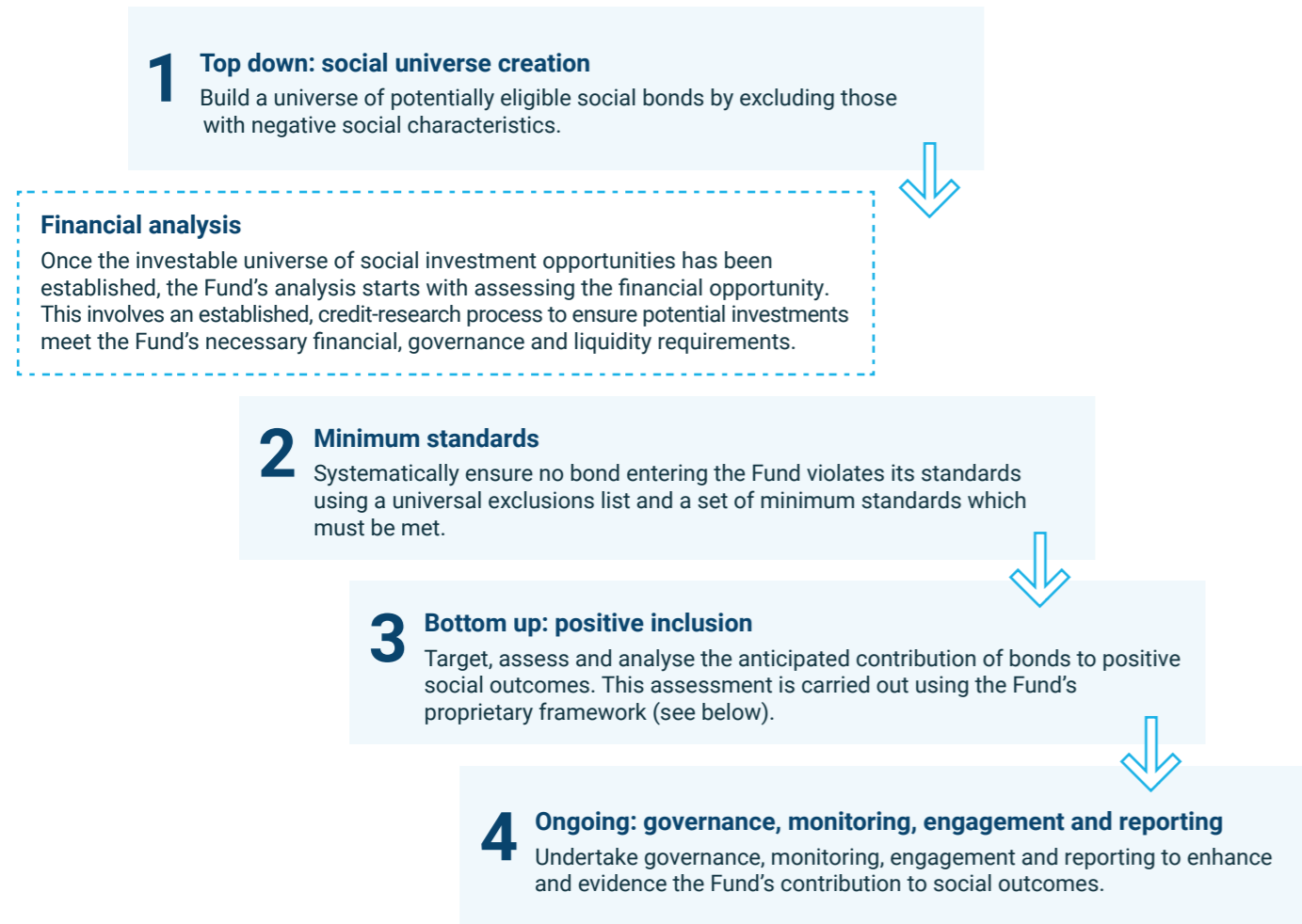
The Fund has developed a rigorous investment management approach that integrates considerations of how each bond contributes to social outcomes. The Outcomes Diagram below provides a visual summary of the Fund’s intended pathway from activities through to outcomes.

Figure 1: Outcomes Diagram

		Example:			
	SOCIAL ISSUES	SOLUTIONS	HOLDINGS	SDGs	OUTCOMES
Affordable Housing	There is a severe global shortage of affordable, quality housing, driven by inadequate supply, structural inequalities and rising costs  96,000 new housing units need to be built per day globally to meet adequate housing needs by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New and retrofitted affordable housing for low income and underserved populations</li> <li>Targeted affordable mortgage products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saltaire Finance (General Bond)</li> <li>Housing Australia (Sustainability Bond)</li> <li>Republic of Chile (Social Bond)</li> </ul>	11	Improved availability and affordability of good quality housing
Health and Welfare	Global health systems face innovation gaps and struggle to deliver accessible, affordable, quality care  Over 4.5 billion people lack full coverage for essential health services, and 2 billion experience financial hardship paying for care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical research and innovation</li> <li>Health and social care facilities, services and preventative care programs</li> <li>Medical devices, vaccines, diagnostics and pharmaceuticals</li> <li>Low-cost healthcare access and insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Finance Facility for Immunisation (Social Bond)</li> <li>GE Healthcare Technologies (General Bond)</li> <li>EIB (Sustainability Bond)</li> </ul>	3	Improved access to and increased provision of quality health and social care products and services
Education and Training	Rapidly changing labour markets create skills mismatches, while unequal access to quality educational and training opportunities persist  Almost one quarter of youth are NEET worldwide; rising to almost one-third among young women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education programs for underserved students</li> <li>New and upgraded educational infrastructure and learning materials</li> <li>Vocational and technical training programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pearson (Social Bond)</li> <li>State of North-Rhine Westphalia (Sustainability Bond)</li> <li>Asian Development Bank (Social Bond)</li> </ul>	4	Improved access to and increased provision of quality training and educational opportunities and academic infrastructure
Employment	Global job growth lags rising workforce demand, worsened by credit-constrained businesses and increasing job insecurity  The global jobs gap hit 402 million in 2024 and, after recent declines, is expected to level off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for MSMEs, self-employed and entrepreneurship, especially minority-owned or in underserved regions or sectors</li> <li>Job creation programs</li> <li>Employment training, protection and upskilling for at-risk workers or unemployed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unedic (Social Bond)</li> <li>Compass Group (Sustainability Bond)</li> <li>NRW Bank (Social Bond)</li> </ul>	8, 5	Improved availability of and access to employment opportunities
Community	Communities face growing pressure from inequality, crises, rapid urbanisation and demographic changes, limiting access to essential services and cohesion  By 2050, 70% of people will live in cities, straining community spaces and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential social services for in-need people</li> <li>Social inclusion initiatives</li> <li>Emergency response and crisis support</li> <li>Public assistance programs</li> <li>Community facilities and infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (General Bond)</li> <li>IDA (Sustainability Bond)</li> <li>State of Berlin (Sustainability Bond)</li> </ul>	11, 1, 10	Improved access to and increased provision of community facilities and services
Access to Services	Global barriers to protective and fairer financial, mobility, and digital services, limit inclusive economic and social participation  1.6 billion people lack access to essential financial services, while 2.2 billion remain offline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal protection insurance (life, critical illness) and pensions products</li> <li>Fairer financial services providing microfinance, competitive loans and mutual banking</li> <li>Mobility solutions for underserved people</li> <li>Digital inclusion and connectivity programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationwide (General Bond)</li> <li>Orange (General Bond)</li> <li>Guardian Life (General Bond)</li> </ul>	9, 8, 10	Enabled and improved access to financial security, digital connectivity and mobility solutions
Economic Regeneration and Development	Aging and inadequate infrastructure, coupled with rising climate risks, require major investment for resilience and sustainability  USD \$4.2trn annual investment is needed over the next decade to future-proof global infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modernised and expanded critical infrastructure (e.g., water, energy, public transport)</li> <li>Climate adaptation and mitigation solutions</li> <li>Sustainable agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alliander (Green Bond)</li> <li>Commonwealth of Australia (Green Bond)</li> <li>Triodos Bank (Green Bond)</li> <li>Rentenbank (General Bond)</li> </ul>	7, 6, 11	Enhanced access and increased provision of resilient, sustainable infrastructure and reduced climate-related social risks

## Investment Process

The CT Global Social Bond Fund team assesses the extent to which bonds contribute to its outcomes through the investment process outlined below:



### The Fund's Proprietary Social Assessment Methodology

The CT Global Social Bond Fund uses a proprietary social assessment methodology to score each bond, enabling the Portfolio Manager to prioritise allocations toward those with the highest contribution to social outcomes. This supports the Fund's dual objective of generating positive social outcomes and delivering financial returns.

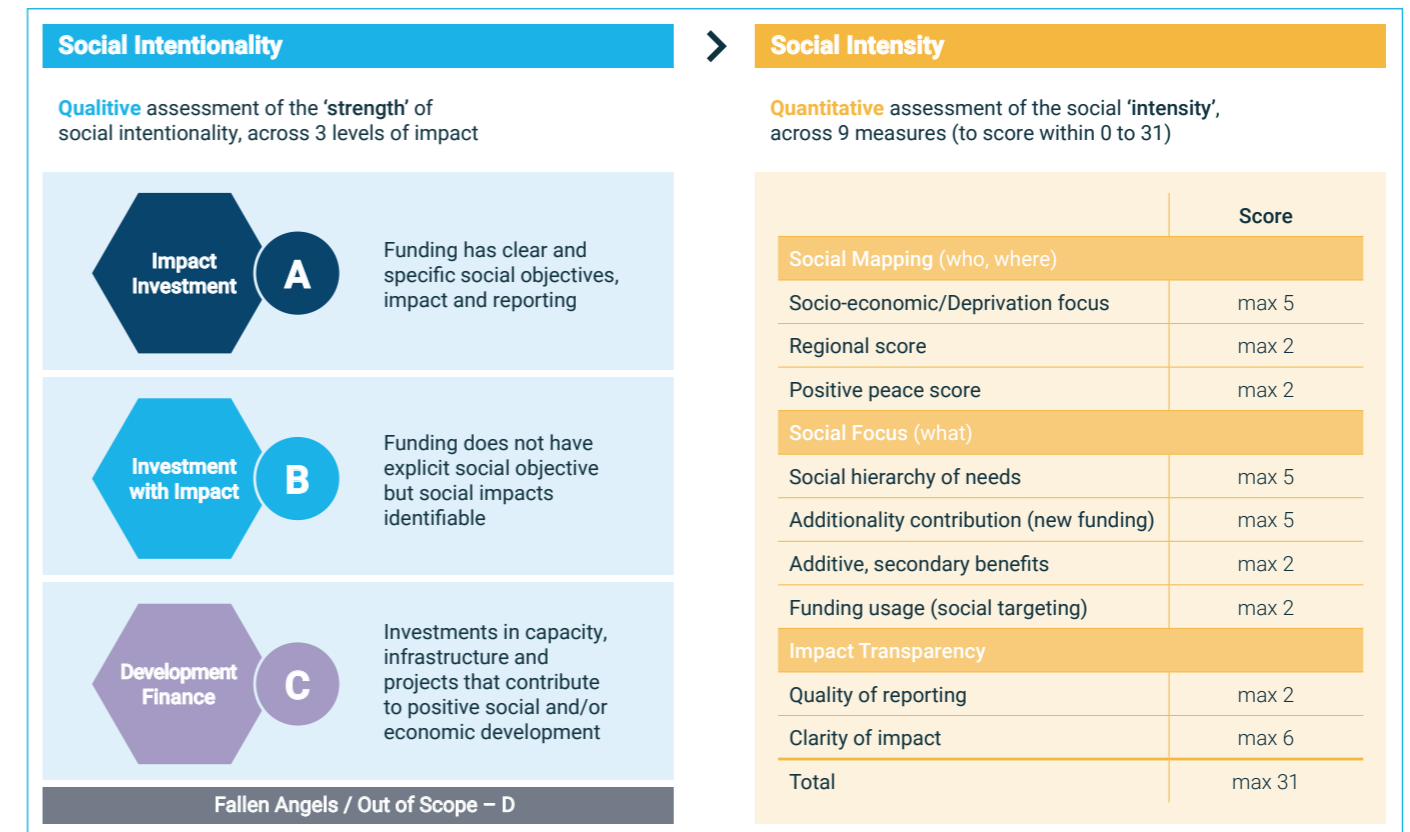
The social assessment methodology involves assessing two components:

- **Intentionality:** A qualitative assessment of the strength of the bond's 'social intentionality' (i.e. its 'intention' to contribute to positive social outcomes). Each bond is assigned a category of A, B or C.

- **Intensity:** A quantitative assessment of the bond's 'social intensity'. This looks at measures across nine areas to gauge 'who and what benefits'. The main categories of scoring in this assessment are Social Mapping (target populations), Social Focus (social hierarchy of needs and additionality) and Impact Transparency. Each bond is assigned a social intensity score from 0-31 (this score is then sorted into quartiles: 1 = strong; 2 = good; 3 = moderate; 4 = minor).

The overall assessment process generates a discrete social score for each bond (A1 to C4). This is used to compare bonds and monitor the portfolio over time.

Figure 2: Social Assessment Methodology



## Management of Potential Negative Outcomes

Potential negative outcomes are managed and mitigated through the following channels:

- **The investment screening process:** Potential negative impacts are managed through the Fund's investment process. As described on page 12, stages 1 and 2 involve the construction of an investable universe, carried out based on a set of exclusions and minimum required standards. This is designed to ensure that issuers originating from sectors which offer minimal social or sustainability benefits, or which represent a high risk of adverse impacts, are excluded. The Fund's list of exclusions and minimum standards can be found in its Social Investment Guidelines.

- **Regular engagements:** The Fund regularly engages with issuers both pre- and post-issuance. Where a situation arises in which the Fund feels there is a risk of an issuer or specific bond contributing to negative outcomes, the Fund team looks to engage with that issuer.
- **The Fund's governance:** The CT Global Social Bond Fund is overseen by a Social Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly to oversee the implementation of the Social Assessment Methodology. The Committee reviews holdings, challenges potential misalignments with the Fund's thesis, and can recommend divestment if concerns remain unresolved.

# Portfolio-level Social Performance Analysis

Since launching in June 2023, the CT Global Social Bond Fund has invested £75m in a portfolio of 178 bonds across 141 issuers contributing to seven social outcome areas. This includes an additional £11.1m and a net increase of 26 bonds in the 12 months to June 2025.

The following sections provide insight into the Fund's expected contribution to social outcomes through providing details on:



Portfolio-level analysis of the Fund's profile, drawing on specific characteristics associated with the Fund's holdings.



An assessment of the Fund's investor contribution through its approach to issuer engagement.



A deep dive into each of the seven core outcome areas to which the Fund aims to contribute.



Conclusions and forward look, including reflections on the contribution to positive outcomes over the last 12 months.

## Overall findings

Guided by the Social Assessment Methodology, the portfolio remains firmly aligned with the Fund's objective of contributing to positive social outcomes through investing in bonds that support or fund socially beneficial activities and development. The Fund is comfortably exceeding its bond rating targets, with a diversified portfolio that is predominantly comprised of specific use of proceeds bonds (79%).

In the 12 months to June 2025, the Fund increased its allocation to primary market purchases in line with TGE's recommendations, contributing greater additionality by channelling investment to new socially beneficial projects that may not otherwise have been financed. The Fund also adopted a more systematic approach to issuer engagement, enhancing Columbia Threadneedle Investments' ability to influence and encourage a stronger focus on social outcomes and reporting.

Looking ahead, the Fund has the opportunity to further increase its contribution to social outcomes by allocating more capital to bonds with a 'Dedicated' focus, ensuring that the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society are benefitting from its investments.

The Fund's framework for classifying and assessing bonds is both extensive and detailed, with significant resources dedicated to the process. TGE provides an added layer of scrutiny by independently reviewing a sample of the Fund's bonds and assessing the scoring of the underlying components that make up its framework. Based on these reviews in 2024-25, TGE has been satisfied with the overall rigour and robustness of the process, and the scoring that the Fund has given the bonds.

With that being said, certain limitations remain. Firstly, the Fund's investments in public markets generate lower additionality compared to private market investments. Secondly, though the Fund has some holdings allocated to investments in emerging markets, including bonds from several development finance institutions, risk considerations constrain the Fund's ability to increase its exposure to these regions. Finally, despite exceeding their bond rating targets, the Fund still holds some bonds where the positive social outcomes are less direct, and additionality is relatively lower, however TGE understands that these lower rated bonds, which are still eligible, are required to fulfil the financial objectives of the fund.

## Top-25 Bond Holdings

The top-25 holdings accounted for 35% of the total value of the Fund, as listed below. This is a decrease from June 2024, when the top-25 holdings accounted for 41% of the Fund's value.

See Appendix 3 for the full list of bond issuers.<sup>5</sup> This publication of the full list of bond issuers demonstrates the Fund's commitment to full transparency in relation to how funds are invested.

Name of issuer	Social outcome category	Social performance rating	% of Fund value (June 2025)
Netherlands Development Finance	Economic Regeneration and Development	B2	2.2%
French Development Agency	Economic Regeneration and Development	A2	2.1%
Pfizer Inc	Health and Welfare	A2	1.8%
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	Employment	A1	1.7%
Caixabank SA	Employment	A1	1.6%
Centene Corporation	Health and Welfare	B2	1.6%
European Investment Bank	Health and Welfare	A2	1.6%
Praemia Healthcare SA	Health and Welfare	A2	1.5%
Welltower Inc	Health and Welfare	B3	1.5%
Korea Housing Finance Corp	Affordable Housing	A1	1.4%
Deutsche Bank	Affordable Housing	A2	1.4%
Roche Holdings Inc	Health and Welfare	B2	1.4%
Compass Group PLC	Employment	A2	1.3%
AIB Group PLC	Health and Welfare	A1	1.3%
Amvest RCF Custodian BV	Economic Regeneration and Development	B3	1.3%
Standard Chartered PLC MTN Regs	Employment	A1	1.2%
Asian Development Bank	Education and Training	A2	1.2%
International Development Association	Community	A1	1.2%
Alliander NV	Economic Regeneration and Development	B2	1.2%
Wellcome Trust Ltd/The	Health and Welfare	A2	1.2%
Verizon Communications	Economic Regeneration and Development	B3	1.2%
Saltaire Finance PLC	Affordable Housing	A1	1.2%
Japan International Cooperation Agency	Economic Regeneration and Development	A2	1.2%
KBC Group NV MTN Regs	Education and Training	A2	1.1%
Oncor Electric Delivery	Economic Regeneration and Development	B3	1.1%

5. May include multiple bonds from the same issuer.

## Headline Results

The Fund is currently comfortably meeting its key social performance targets, as set by the Social Advisory Committee.

### Social Assessment Methodology bond ratings

As of June 2025, 31% of the Fund's value is invested in bonds which have been categorised as A1 according to its proprietary bond rating system, an increase of three percentage points when compared to June 2024. A1 is the highest possible bond rating, and indicates that the bond:

- Has clear and specific social objectives (the 'A' component).
- Has been assessed to have 'strong' social intensity, which is based on an assessment of 'social outcome/need' (the '1' component).

The Fund has two binding targets based on its bond rating methodology:

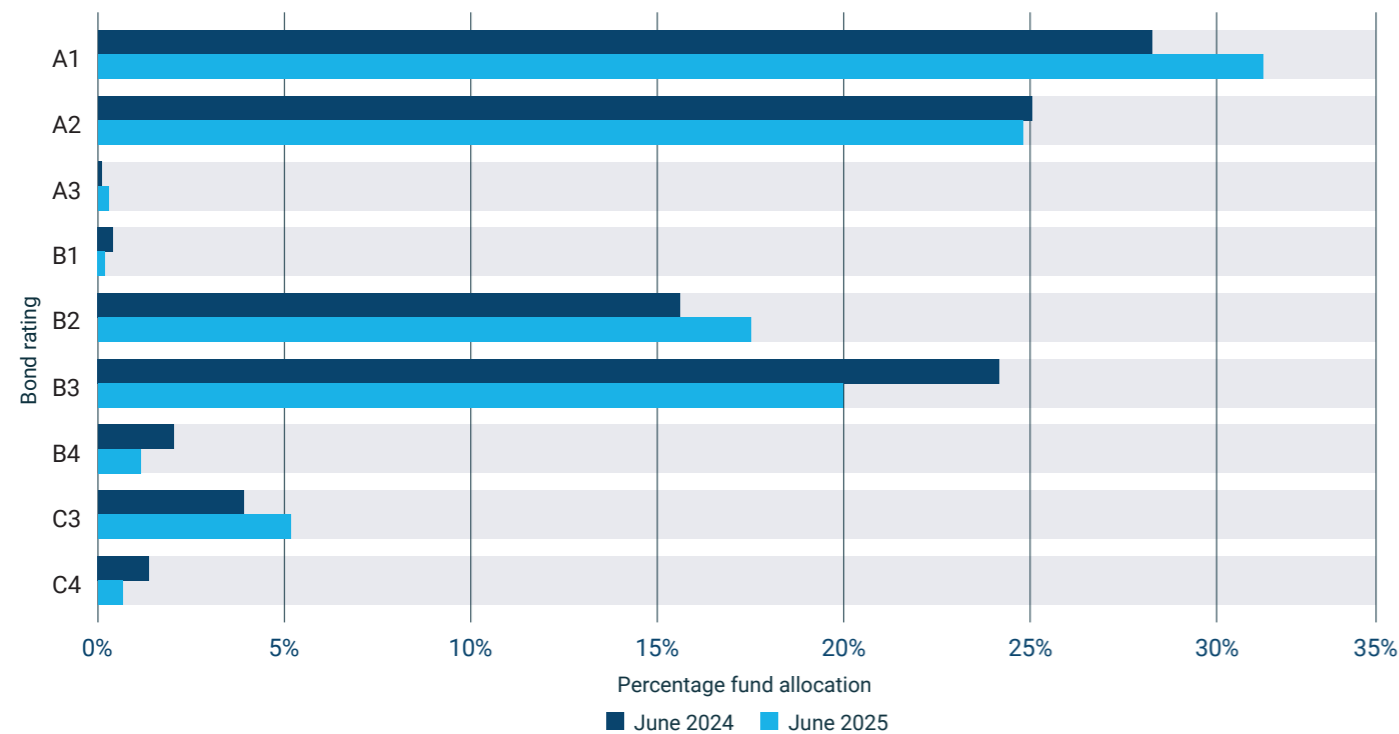
- At least 30% of Fund value must be invested in 'A' rated bonds.
- No more than 20% of Fund value can be invested in 'C3' or 'C4' rated bonds.

The Fund is comfortably achieving both targets.

Target	June 2024	June 2025	Target met?
At least 30% of Fund value must be invested in 'A' rated bonds	52.8%	55.8%	✔
No more than 20% of Fund value can be invested in 'C3' or 'C4' rated bonds	5.3%	5.8%	✔

The full breakdown of bond ratings across the portfolio is provided below:<sup>6</sup>

Figure 3: Social assessment methodology bond rating (by value)



Between June 2024 and June 2025, the portfolio has seen a positive increase in the percentage of bonds rated A, which are bonds which the greatest intentionality. The percentage of fund allocation dedicated to A1 bonds (those with the most significant contribution to social outcomes) has increased.

There has also been a decline in bonds rated C4 within the portfolio (those with relatively lower levels of social intensity and intentionality and targeted at general populations rather than specific populations with greater needs).

6. Graph excludes ratings where there is no allocation, i.e. there is no allocation to bonds categorised as A4, C1 or C2.

### Average social intensity score

Social intensity is one of two components (along with social intentionality) which make up the Fund's proprietary bond rating methodology (see page 12 for more details). Social intensity specifically scores each bond across nine areas to assess 'who and what benefits.' The maximum score is 31.

The Fund's average social intensity score has increased from 18 in June 2024, to 19 in June 2025.

Since this score is based on the Fund's proprietary rating methodology, it is not possible to compare to an industry benchmark. However, it is encouraging to see a year-on-year improvement.

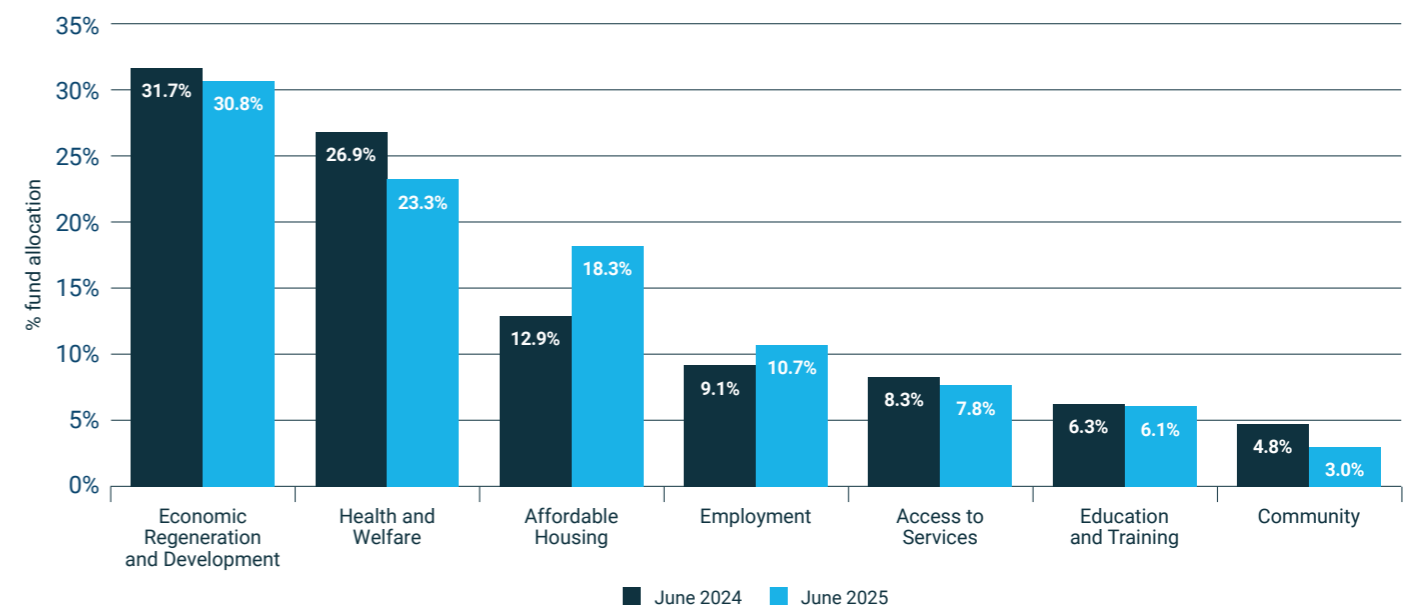
### Social outcome areas targeted

The CT Global Social Bond Fund targets seven key social outcome areas. As of June 2025, its allocation was primarily divided among Affordable Housing, Health and Welfare, and Economic Regeneration and Development, which together accounted for 72.4% of the Fund's total value.

The largest allocation was towards Economic Regeneration and Development, encompassing investments in bonds that contribute to modernised and expanded critical infrastructure (such as water, energy, and public transport), climate adaption and mitigation solutions, and sustainable agriculture. It saw a marginal 0.9 percentage point decrease from June 2024 to June 2025.

The Fund's significant weighting toward these areas reflects the investment opportunities currently available in the market. Bonds continue to provide a common financing mechanism for the large-scale infrastructure and development projects classified under Economic Regeneration and Development, which continues to be the largest outcome area by value within the portfolio. The percentage of fund allocation allocated to Health and Welfare saw the most significant reduction, whilst the allocation to Affordable Housing increased the most.

Figure 4: Outcome area (by value)



**Socio-economic focus**

The Fund’s assessment methodology evaluates each bond’s socio-economic focus and the degree to which it targets deprived populations. Bonds that directly address the needs of disadvantaged groups, such as those financing social housing for low-income families, receive higher scores, while those with a broader focus, such as general healthcare, receive lower scores. Scores range from ‘Dedicated’ (highest score) to ‘General’ (lowest score), reflecting how specifically the bond is targeted.<sup>7</sup>

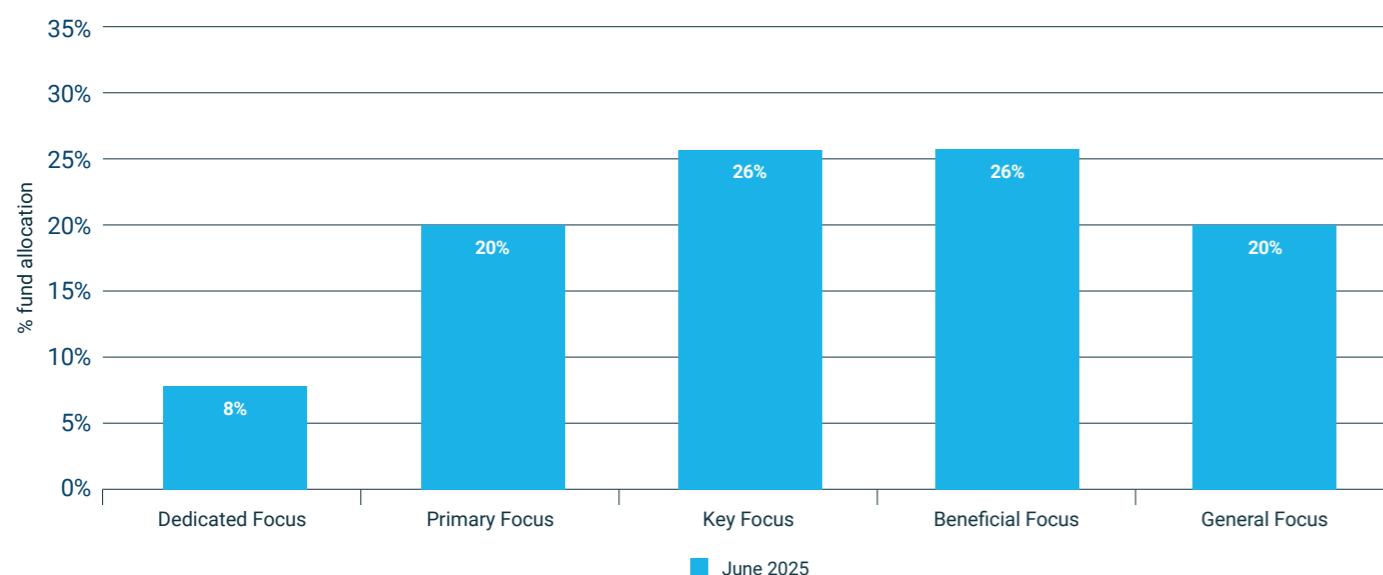
As of June 2025:

- 28% of the Fund’s allocation was invested in bonds targeting **more deprived populations** (the ‘Dedicated’ and ‘Priority’ focus categories).

- The majority, 52% of fund allocation, was directed towards bonds with a **medium level of socio-economic focus** (‘Key’ and ‘Beneficial’ focus). An example of a bond within this category would be a development bank bond that funds private sector lending in low-income countries to reduce poverty, whilst recognising that wealthier populations in those regions may also benefit from lending.
- 20% was allocated to bonds serving the **general population**.

The distribution shows a balanced approach within the Fund’s portfolio, however there is room for improvement for there to be a greater proportion of fund allocation dedicated to targeting those most in need.

Figure 5: Socio-economic focus (by value)



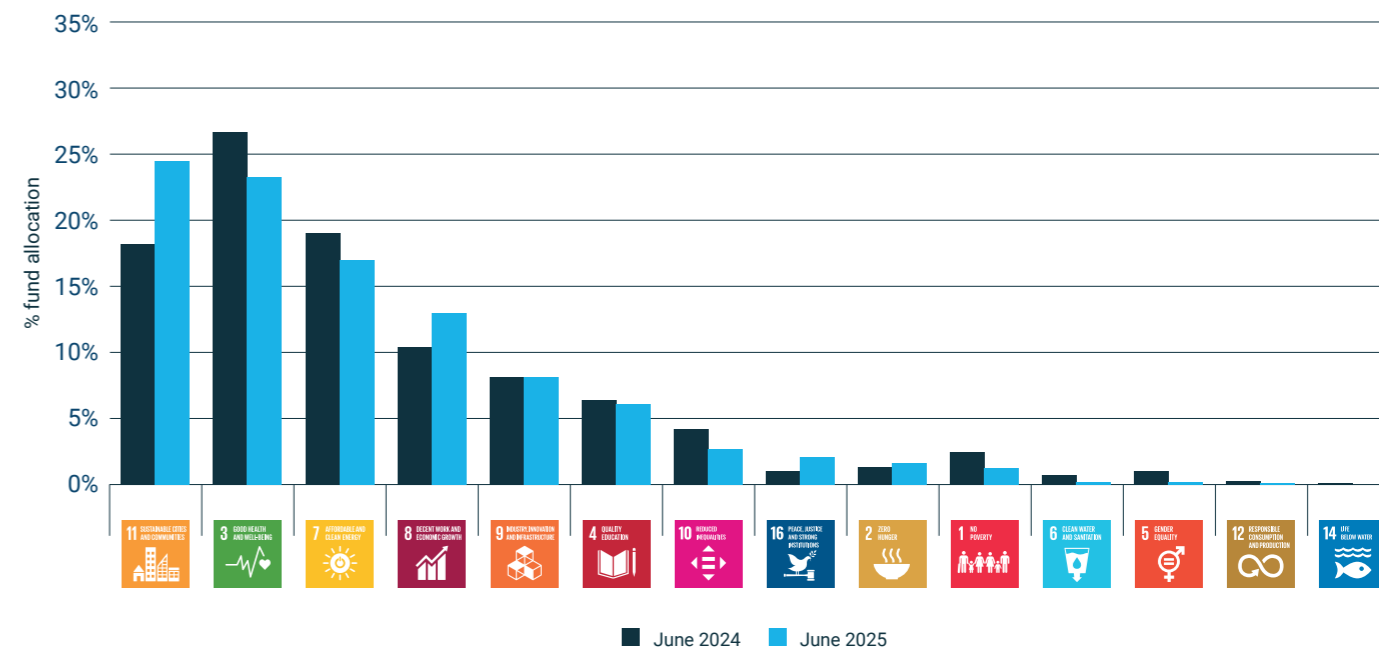
7. In 2025, the Fund updated the scoring system to include a new ‘Key Focus’ scoring category. It did not retrospectively adjust 2024 holdings to the new framework, and thus there is no comparison made with the June 2024 position.

**UN SDG alignment**

The Fund’s **largest contribution is now to SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**.

In the 12 months to June 2025, the share of Fund value allocated to bonds aligned with SDG 11 increased to the extent that it overtook SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing as the Fund’s primary area of contribution. This shift reflects higher allocations to bonds financing Affordable Housing, alongside a relative reduction in bonds targeting Health and Welfare.<sup>8</sup>

Figure 6: UN SDG alignment (by value)



**Additionality**

The Fund assesses all bonds based on their level of additionality (defined as the additional contribution made). This evaluation considers two elements:

- Whether the bonds were purchased on the primary market.
- How the proceeds are being used (the ‘additional contribution’).

8. Each bond is mapped onto the SDGs using the 169 underlying targets.

**Bond type**

The Fund's strategy permits it to invest in a range of bond types, including specific use of proceeds bonds, as categorised under the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)'s Principles, as well general corporate purpose funds.

Across the Fund's portfolio, **79.1% of Fund value has been allocated to specific use-of-proceeds bonds**. Its remaining holdings are mostly allocated to general corporate purpose bonds – these bonds form 20.9% of the Fund's overall value.



**Spotlight on: ICMA-labelled bonds**

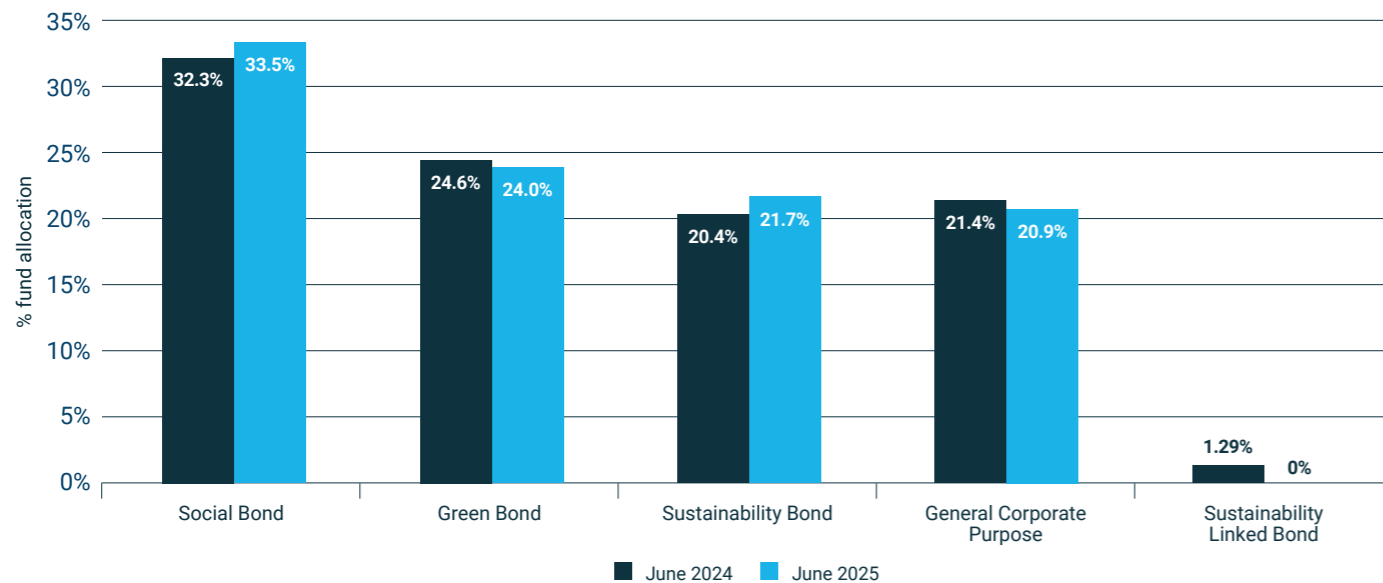
The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) has established a series of product standards to guide the issuance of bonds with sustainability objectives. These voluntary principles are designed to promote transparency, integrity, and accountability in the sustainable bond market. ICMA has defined principles and guidelines as the following bond types:

- **Green Bonds:** Bonds specifically used to finance environmental projects, such as renewable energy or pollution prevention.
- **Social Bonds:** Bonds that fund projects with positive social impacts, like affordable housing or healthcare.
- **Sustainability Bonds:** Bonds that finance a combination of both environmental and social projects.
- **Sustainability-Linked Bonds:** Bonds that align with an issuer's wider sustainability strategy, where bond terms (e.g. interest rates) may vary depending on the issuer's performance against defined sustainability targets.

The key feature of Green, Social, and Sustainability Bonds is their nature as use-of-proceeds instruments – capital raised is ring-fenced for eligible projects delivering social and/or environmental benefits.

By contrast, general corporate purpose bonds raise funds for broad business activities, such as refinancing or capital expenditure, and are not always tied to specific sustainability objectives.

**Figure 7: Bond type (by value)**

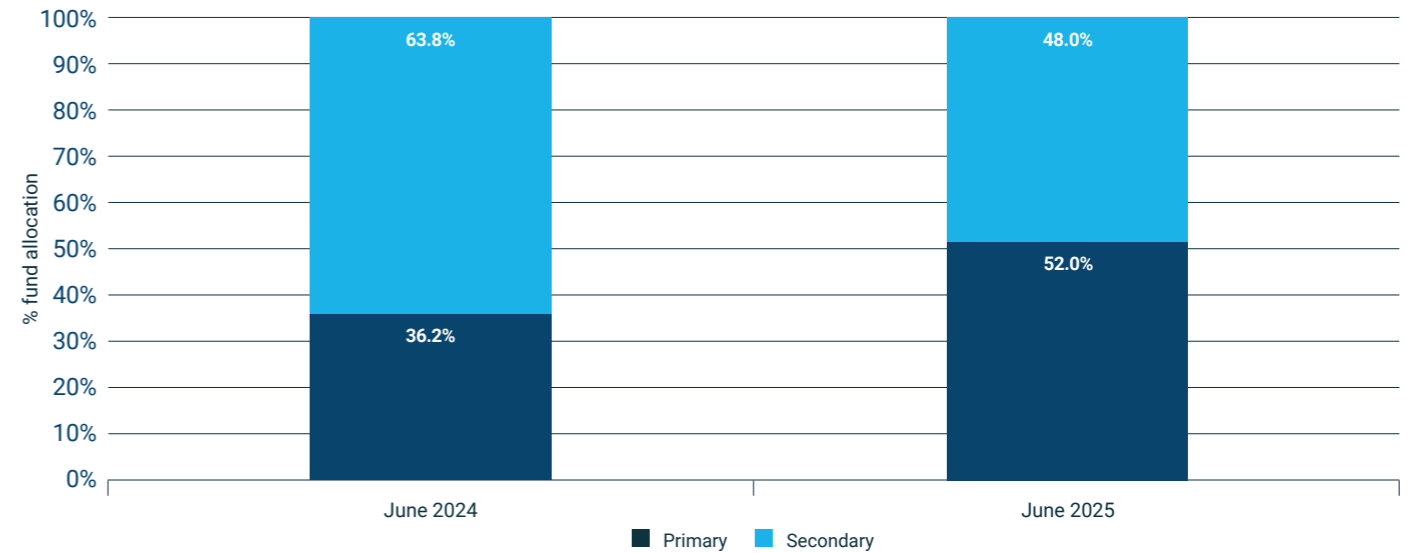


**Primary market vs other purchases**

**52%** of the Fund's bonds by value were initiated in the **primary market**, where bond proceeds went directly to the issuer. This is a 15.8 percentage point increase from June 2024 to June 2025.

In last year's report, this reliance on secondary market bonds was highlighted as an area for improvement. It is therefore encouraging to see a positive shift, with the Fund now supporting a greater share of new issuance. This enhances additionality by directly financing issuers and contributing to the funding of new projects.

**Figure 8: Primary market purchases (by value)**

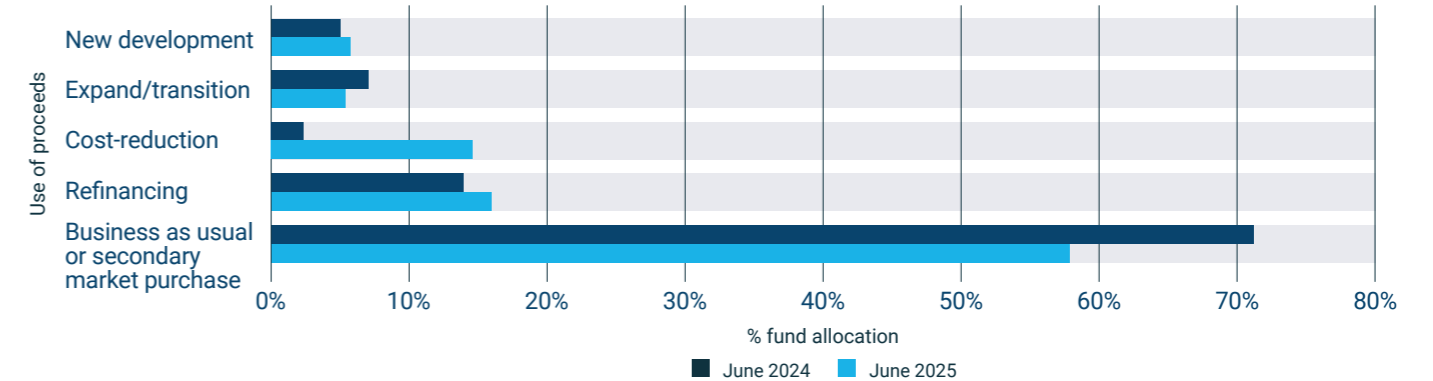


**Additional contribution**

Despite the increase in allocation to primary market purchases, most of the Fund's allocation is still to bonds categorised as lower additionality i.e., general corporate purpose bonds ('Business as Usual') or bonds purchased on the secondary

market. There has been a 13.3pp fall in such bonds since June 2024, however they still make up more than half of the portfolio.

**Figure 9: Additional contribution (by value)**



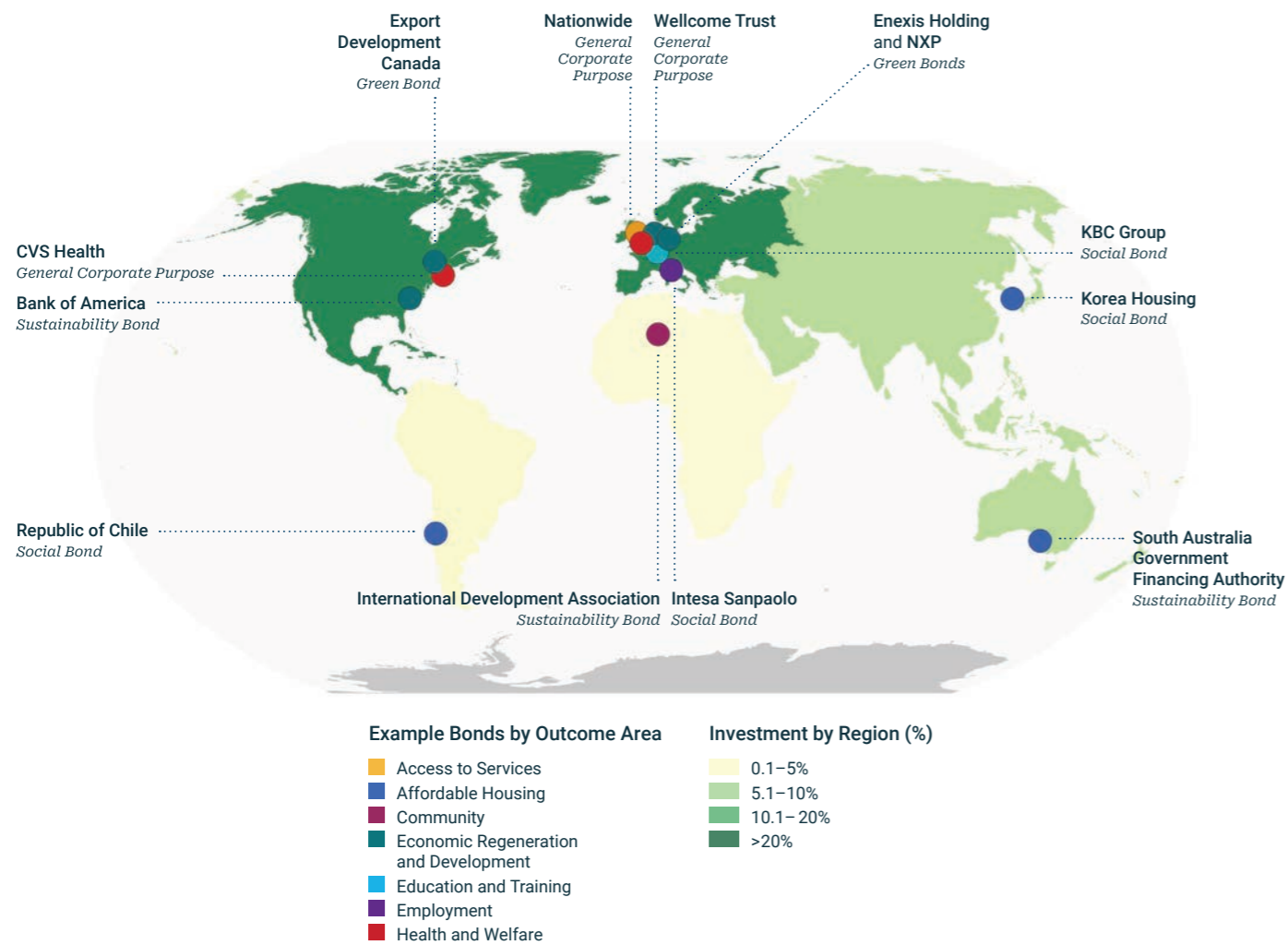
**Regional breakdown**

Just under half (**42.3%**) of the Fund's value is allocated to bonds based in Europe, with the second largest proportion being invested in North America (**22.5%**)

Region	June 2024	June 2025
North America	20.5%	22.5%
South America	0.9%	2.1%
Europe	42.7%	42.3%
Asia	7.2%	6.2%
Africa	0.0%	1.2%
Oceania	6.0%	7.7%
Global	22.7%	17.9%

A significant amount of Fund value is allocated to bonds with proceeds invested across multiple regions (17.9%), which includes low-income countries, as broken down in the second table. Of these 'Global' bonds, 40.6% is invested in bonds targeting Emerging Markets.<sup>9</sup>

Figure 10: Regional mapping of the Fund's investments, including selected holdings



9. 40.6% of the Fund's value within the 'Global' category is invested in bonds targeting Emerging Markets, 51.1% in bonds targeting Developed Markets, and 8.3% in bonds that did not disclose which markets were being targeted.

**Spotlight on: The Fund's environmental contribution**

Whilst being a Social Bond fund and therefore investing with the intention of contributing to positive social outcomes, according to its seven core outcome areas, some of the Fund's investments contribute to important environmental co-benefits. 24% of the Fund's value is invested in Green Bonds, all of which have evidence of social co-benefits.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments has specific commitments and targets relating to Net Zero, with the Fund measuring and reporting its Scope 1, 2, & 3 emissions using a third-party provider, with around 78% data coverage for the portfolio.

**Examples of Green Bond's the Fund has invested in:**

- The UK Government issued its second Green Gilt in October 2021, and alongside the inaugural Green Gilt issued in the same year, it has been used to fund Clean Transport (such as charge point infrastructure and low emission taxi schemes) and Renewable Energy (including funding the replacement of fossil fuel boilers with biomass and heat pumps). The Green Gilt also reports social co-benefits, such as job creation and cost savings, which the team successfully pushed for through extensive engagement with the UK government.
- Amprion's 15-year Senior Green Bond issued in 2024 will be used for the renovation, upgrading, and expansion of the transmission grid, and will integrate renewable power into the energy system.
- KfW issued a 10-year Green Bond which supports loans under its Renewable Energies and Energy-efficient Construction programmes. It finances the construction, expansion, modernisation, and acquisition of renewable energy plants, and the construction of new energy-efficient residential buildings in Germany.

**Net zero alignment and engagement status**

The Fund's consumer facing disclosure says that it aims for companies representing >70% of portfolio emissions to be either rated as aligned to net zero, or under engagement (with the remaining either not aligned to net zero or not engaged); currently, they are exceeding this target, with 61% aligned and 22% engaged, totalling 83%.





### Spotlight trend: Just Transition

A Just Transition refers to the shift towards a low-carbon, environmentally sustainable economy in a way that is fair, inclusive, and equitable. It aims to maximise the social and economic opportunities of climate and environmental action, whilst ensuring that no one is left behind as economies decarbonise. Effective implementation is critical to success, given both the opportunities and challenges involved. For example, the transition can create quality green jobs in emerging industries, while at the same time requiring support for workers at risk of unemployment in declining carbon-intensive sectors.

Community engagement is a vital component. Those most impacted by climate change, often low-income communities with fewer resources to adapt, must be included in decision-making. Likewise, engaging those facing industrial decline can help reduce resistance and ensure that transition policies are designed and implemented fairly. People at risk as a result of climate change and climate transition projects are now recognised as vulnerable by the ICMA; as such, this presents an opportunity for utilities to issue sustainability bonds and dedicate a portion of proceeds to reskilling those who may otherwise be left behind.

### JUST TRANSITION ENGAGEMENT CASE STUDY – ALLIANDER

Alliander, the largest distribution system operator in the Netherlands, serves around 3.5 million customers across multiple provinces, including Amsterdam. Its mission is to maintain reliable, affordable, and accessible energy while supporting the Netherlands' transition to renewable sources.

The company has shown strong leadership on Just Transition principles through several innovative programmes. One key initiative, developed with Amsterdam municipality, combats energy poverty by identifying vulnerable customers at risk of missing bill payments and disconnection. These customers are directed to debt support services in advance, preventing 60-70% of potential disconnections to date. The Fund engaged with Alliander to encourage expansion of this programme, where Alliander confirmed that they intend to expand this programme to additional municipalities, and it has attracted interest from the Dutch government in relation to potential legislative change.

During engagement with the Alliander, Columbia Threadneedle asked for a Sustainability Bond, however Alliander instead chose to remain issuing Green Bonds instead, having issued the first such bond by a Dutch distribution system operator in 2019. The Fund therefore highlighted the benefits of integrating social co-benefits into its Green Bond framework, which Alliander were receptive to and agreed to consider. Potential additions could include reporting on green jobs, renewable energy connections, and retraining initiatives.

### What the Fund has not invested in

The Fund's investable universe remains smaller compared to the entire primary market – it starts with bonds in the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Credit Index and then applies the Fund's exclusionary screening and social inclusion criteria. Several bonds have been declined due to concerns around impact integrity, social value, or issuer behaviour.

The Fund is cautious of sustainability-linked bonds (SLBs) and recently declined three such bonds that were identified as reflecting a broader market pattern of unambitious targets and weak accountability mechanisms. This included:

- A bond issued by an airport which featured carbon targets that were aligned with existing public commitments already on track for achievement. The Fund concluded that this bond did not have the potential to affect a significant portion of the airport's emissions footprint.
- A second airport bond with targets identical to existing commitments that were already reported as "on

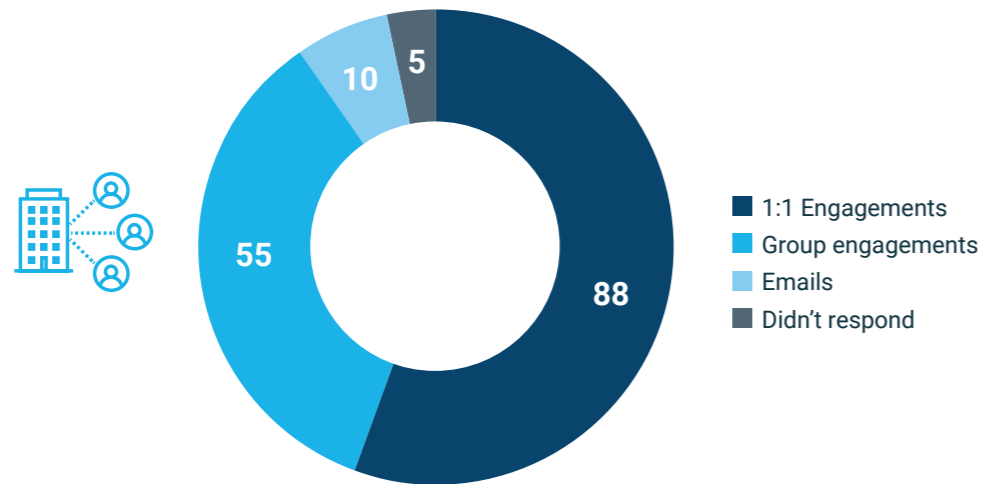
track." Despite referencing community benefits in its sustainability roadmap, such as accessibility improvements and employment, no meaningful social targets were incorporated in the bond's intended use of proceeds.

- A bond issued by a retailer which included one target that had effectively been achieved prior to issuance, eliminating penalty risk. While their second target addressed their most material emissions category, it only offered a modest reduction when properly contextualised.

Additionally, the Fund declined a general corporate purpose bond issued by a food retailer in early 2025. The Fund took this decision because it concluded that there was a lack of ringfencing towards highly social issues, such as the cost of food. The issuer has also faced equal pay controversies, raising questions about the strength of its social thesis.

# Engagement Framework and Activity

Between June 2024 and June 2025, the Fund engaged with **158 issuers** and had a total of **153 responses** (96.8% response rate).



## Why the Fund engages

The Fund monitors and organises its engagement with issuers according to a bespoke framework, which outlines a set of core reasons for engagement. This includes two 'insight-driven' reasons, and five 'outcomes-driven' reasons, as outlined below:

### Insight-driven:

1. Gain clarity and understanding from issuers' regarding their activities and the social outcomes of their bonds.
2. Investigate on flagged controversies and inform eligibility of issuers and their bonds for the funds.

### Outcomes-driven:

1. Maximise additionality
2. Increase issuance (esp. social use-of-proceeds)
3. Increase targeting of underserved populations
4. Enhance social intentionality
5. Improve reporting transparency and clarity.



In practice, these reasons are often pursued in partnership. Therefore, many of the Fund's engagements are both outcomes-driven and insight-driven – as Figure 11 demonstrates.

Among the Fund's outcome-driven engagements, Figure 12 below outlines the reasons for engagement. The percentages do not add up to 100% as, in practice, most engagements cover multiple themes.

Figure 11: Reasons for Fund engagement

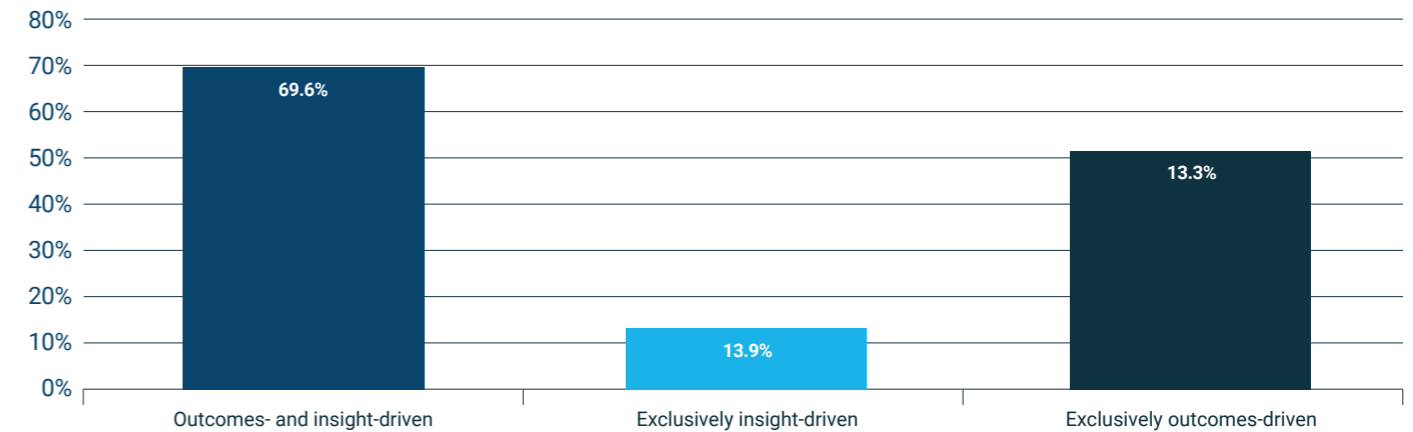
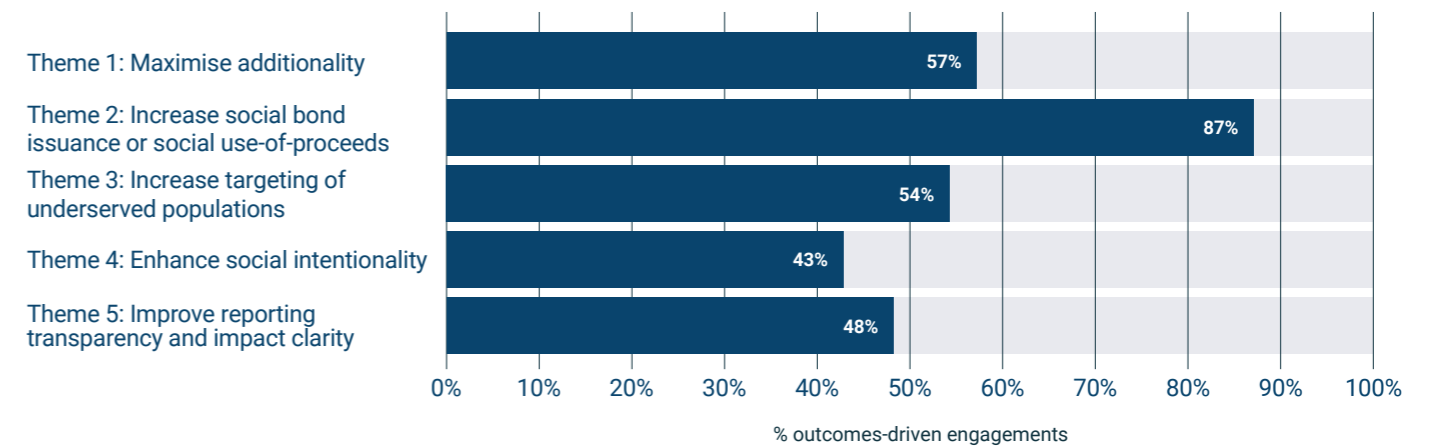


Figure 12: Outcomes-driven engagements breakdown



In addition to its engagement with issuers, the Fund also engages with the wider industry through various industry bodies, with the aim of influencing decision-making, standards development and leading best practice in the sustainable investing market.

For example:

- Sitting on the Advisory Panel of the Impact Investing Institute.
- Being members of the Global Impact Investing Network.
- Supporting initiatives such as the Just Transition Finance Labs.
- Engaging with bookrunners to ensure they continue to develop best practise when structuring labelled bonds.

## Engagement Case Studies

Engagement theme	Issuer	Insights
Maximise additionality	NatWest	<p>NatWest, one of the UK's leading banking and financial services institutions, regularly issues bonds within social and green categories.</p> <p>Columbia Threadneedle have had extensive engagement with the NatWest team, covering a range of topics. Previous engagements have seen NatWest improve their impact reporting on their Gender Bond by incorporating beneficiary voice through surveys of the women who received SME loans.</p> <p>More recently, Columbia Threadneedle encouraged NatWest to strengthen the additionality of its bond programme by allocating proceeds from future issuances to new loans rather than refinancing existing ones, thereby supporting projects that might not otherwise have occurred. Encouragingly, NatWest has begun implementing this recommendation, with 15% of proceeds from its latest affordable housing bond allocated to new lending. In a recent meeting, NatWest's debt team also confirmed their intention to apply this approach to additionality across future bond issuances.</p>
Increase Social Bond Issuance / Social UOP	NBN	<p>Established in 2009, NBN designs, builds, and operates a wholesale broadband access network across Australia. Affordable and reliable broadband is critical for enabling access to health services, expanding employment and education opportunities, driving economic growth, and promoting digital inclusion.</p> <p>NBN began issuing Green Bonds in the European market in early 2023 and, following encouragement from Columbia Threadneedle, issued its first Sustainability Bond in 2025. Proceeds from the bond will fund initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of the network through fibre roll-out, as well as expand broadband access to underserved regional and remote communities. These projects will enhance digital inclusion and provide direct support to farmers, schools, and local employment.</p>
Increase targeting of underserved populations	NRW Bank	<p>NRW Bank is the 100% government-owned regional development bank of North Rhine-Westphalia, a region that while the largest and richest in Germany, has large interstate disparities following the decline of the mining and steel industries in the Ruhr metropolitan areas.</p> <p>Because of this, Columbia Threadneedle engaged with NRW Bank to encourage more targeted lending for SMEs in economically disadvantaged areas, as well as increased social bond issuance. In line with this, NRW Bank's 2025 updated Social Bond Framework included more focused social lending criteria for structurally weak regions and added a new 'Access to Basic Infrastructure' category to support growth in social assets.</p> <p>The Good Economy spoke to NRW Bank about their engagement with the Fund and heard that NRW Bank felt it was completely aligned with Columbia Threadneedle Investments on their desire to achieve positive social outcomes and found their meetings with the team "tremendously helpful".</p>

Engagement theme	Issuer	Insights
Enhance social intentionality	Export Development Canada	<p>Export Development Canada (EDC) is Canada's export credit agency, providing financing, insurance, and risk management solutions to help Canadian companies expand internationally and support sustainable trade and investment.</p> <p>During engagement, EDC responded positively to Columbia Threadneedle's recommendations for improving its reporting by incorporating community perspectives through surveys and case studies, and by adopting stronger metrics that capture social co-benefits and employment impacts resulting from EDC's financing.</p> <p>EDC is also exploring the issuance of a benchmark-sized Social Bond that would finance Indigenous partnerships in forestry and mining, as well as women- and minority-owned businesses. Historically, relations between EDC and Indigenous communities have been strained, but there is now a shift from consultation toward genuine partnership. Columbia Threadneedle further encouraged EDC to include micro and small enterprises as potential beneficiaries of the Social Bond.</p>
Improve reporting transparency and impact clarity	Asian Development Bank	<p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a multilateral development institution that provides financing, technical assistance, and policy support to promote sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty across the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>ADB operates Green, Blue, and Thematic bond programmes. While its Green and Blue bonds are ICMA-aligned, carry CICERO SPOs, and have strong impact reporting, the Thematic Bonds (covering gender equality, education, biodiversity, health, and water) are not ICMA-aligned and report annually on a best-efforts basis. During engagement, Columbia Threadneedle encouraged ADB to enhance transparency for its Thematic Bonds by clearly linking reported projects to specific bond issuances, providing project dates, and incorporating community perspectives into reporting. ADB acknowledged these requests but stated it had capacity constraints for bond-level reporting.</p> <p>Columbia Threadneedle also pressed ADB to align future thematic issuances with ICMA standards, highlighting the investor preference for labelled bonds. ADB recognised this feedback and agreed peers are moving in this direction but maintained that some investors still value highly targeted thematic bonds. Columbia Threadneedle suggested this focus can still be achieved within an ICMA-aligned framework, citing NatWest's Social Bonds as an example.</p>



## Portfolio Overview by Social Outcome Area

This section of the report offers an overview of the Fund's investments across its seven key social outcome areas. It includes headline figures, relevant global context, and illustrative case studies to provide an example of the Fund's investments in relation to each outcome area.

### A note on case study selection

Case studies were selected to capture insights from a diverse range of issuances, reflecting the breadth of the portfolio. The selection process considered four key characteristics: geography, type of issuer, type of bond, and bond rating.

Of the seven case studies included in this section, five were selected by Columbia Threadneedle Investments and two were selected by TGE.

In line with Impact Frontiers' framework on 'basis for selection,' final case studies were prioritised according to their purpose – that is, what each case communicates.

Following Impact Frontiers' typology, the selected case studies can be described as a blend of Illustrative and Critical Instance. They are designed both to add depth and realism by describing typical examples (Illustrative), and to highlight instances of particular or unique interest (Critical Instance).



## Affordable Housing



### Problem Statement

There is a severe global shortage of affordable, quality housing, driven by inadequate supply, structural inequalities and rising costs.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

28

% FUND ALLOCATION

18.3%

NUMBER OF ISSUERS

20

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)



### Affordable Housing – Aggregated KPIs<sup>10</sup>

- 95,657 new homes delivered<sup>11</sup>
- 15,278 beneficiaries housed<sup>12</sup>
- 496,265 affordable homes supported financially<sup>13</sup>

10. A robust approach to measuring the impact of its underlying assets is of prime importance to the CT Global Social Bond Fund. However, the Fund must operate within the confines of data availability and data variation challenges across issuers. Therefore, within KPIs presented, there is no attribution based on the size of the Fund's investment – they show the results achieved in aggregate for a given bond based on their allocation to eligible projects. The KPIs reported are also not definitive and are likely to vary year-on-year based on data availability within the impact reports of the Fund's issuers.

Impact data is sourced primarily from issuer disclosures, including impact reports, annual reports, regulatory filings, Net Purpose and corporate websites. Where available, issuer-reported KPIs are used. In cases where issuer data is incomplete, inconsistent, or not sufficiently reliable, metrics are excluded from aggregation. The Fund does not independently verify issuer-reported impact data and relies on publicly available information.

To ensure the integrity of aggregated metrics, KPI data is assessed for consistency and clarity of methodology. Data that does not meet these criteria is excluded from aggregation. Examples of excluded data include metrics with unclear definitions, inconsistent reporting periods, or double counting.

11. KPI data aggregated across 3 sustainability/social bonds.

12. KPI data aggregated across 3 sustainability bonds.

13. KPI data aggregated across 4 sustainability/social bonds.



### CASE STUDY – PLACES FOR PEOPLE

#### Case study selection process and purpose

Columbia Threadneedle Investments selection, chosen as an example of a UK sustainability bond purchased on the primary market

#### Region

United Kingdom

#### SDG alignment

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

#### Bond rating

A1

#### Socioeconomic focus

Beneficial focus – target population of low-income households in the UK

#### The issuer

Places for People is one of the UK's leading social enterprises comprising of over 20 different housing providers, property managers, and care providers. They collectively own or manage over 245,000 homes, and seek to provide positive social outcomes by offering residents money advice, hardship funding, and digital skills support, as well as building community centres and public spaces.

#### The bond

In December 2023, Places for People issued an 18-year £500 million Sustainability Bond. The Fund purchased the bond on the primary market.

Places for People have previously issued a Sustainability Bond in 2022, and the Fund expects the use of proceeds to be broadly similar, predominantly focusing on building, renovating, and acquiring affordable housing with a target population of low-income households. Energy efficiency will also be prioritised, with existing houses renovated and retrofitted to meet a minimum EPC rating of C (20,000 homes are due to have energy efficiency upgrades by 2027), while new homes will be built with a rating of EPC B or above. Capital expenditure is expected to be largely forward looking; this is in line with Places for People's goal of growing and improving the quality of their affordable housing stock to support the growing population of those in need of low-cost housing.<sup>14</sup>

Columbia Threadneedle engaged with Places for People at the start of 2024; some key points raised included suggestions from the Fund about for how Places for People could improve its reporting, such as including more information at the bond level, understanding its strategy for improving tenant satisfaction scores, and hearing about its approach to retrofitting its properties to improve its energy efficiency.

14. Places for People, [ESG Report](#), 2024, p.78-80.

## Health and Welfare



### Problem Statement

Global health systems face innovation gaps and struggle to deliver accessible, affordable, quality care.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

36

% FUND ALLOCATION

23.3%

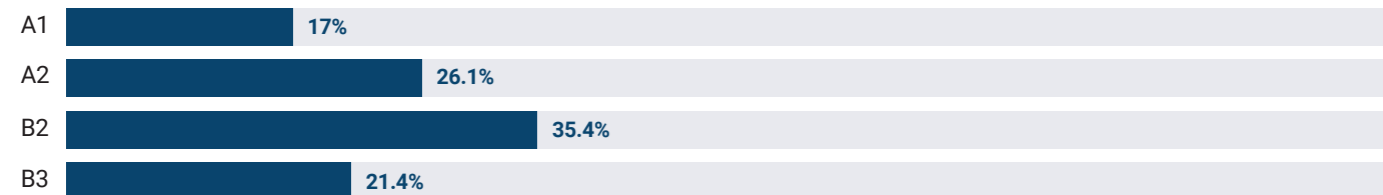
NUMBER OF ISSUERS

29

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)



### Health and Welfare – Bond-Level KPIs<sup>15</sup>

- Gilead Science – **14,825,000** patients treated through Gilead Sciences<sup>16</sup>
- Council of Europe Development Bank – **68,236** hospital beds supported<sup>17</sup>
- European Investment Bank – **2,990,009** patients treated (expected at completion of project)<sup>18</sup>

15. This outcome area spans a wide range of fields, which makes it impractical to aggregate standardised units of impact at the outcome level. As a result, we present bond-level KPIs to illustrate outcome performance in a more meaningful and decision-useful way.

16. General Corporate Purpose Bond. Source: Net Purpose 2024.

17. Social Bond. Source: Impact report 2024 from the issuer.

18. Sustainability Bond. Source: ESG Impact report 2023 from issuer.

## CASE STUDY – GILEAD SCIENCES

### Case study selection process and purpose

Columbia Threadneedle Investments selection, chosen as an example of a general corporate purpose bond

### Region

USA

### SDG alignment

SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing

### Bond rating

B2

### Socioeconomic focus

Beneficial focus – general population with a beneficial focus on underserved populations facing barriers to medical care

### The issuer

Gilead Sciences discovers, develops and commercialises therapeutics to advance the care of patients suffering life-threatening diseases, such as HIV, AIDS, liver disease, and cardiovascular and respiratory conditions. It has recently started focusing on supporting the unmet medical needs of underserved populations by partnering with communities, universities, and advocacy groups to remove barriers to care, improve health equity, and increase access to healthcare and related services.

### The bond

In November 2024, Gilead Sciences issued an 11-year \$1 billion general corporate purpose bond. The Fund purchased the bond on the primary market.

As a general corporate bond, the use of proceeds cannot be directly tracked. However, the Fund chose to invest in this bond as Gilead Sciences continues to develop life-saving medications that support underserved populations, such as rural and indigenous populations across Canada, USA, and Australia.

In 2024, 14.8 million HIV and HBV treatments were made available by Gilead Sciences, who are also leaders in the search for a medication that prevents the acquisition of HIV. If promising trials are successful in later testing stages, this could have a transformative impact in countries where HIV continues to have a high prevalence and significantly limits social and economic development.

At the end of 2024, the Fund engaged with Gilead to discuss labelled bond issuance and claims that it had delayed the development of TAF, a drug used to treat HIV, to maximise the profits on an earlier HIV drug (TDF that was released in 2001). The Fund was satisfied with Gilead's explanation that the TAF drug was not pursued as it was deemed to be less effective than the TDF drug.



## Education and Training



### Problem Statement

Rapidly changing labour markets create skills mismatches, while unequal access to quality educational and training opportunities persist.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

8

% FUND ALLOCATION

6.1%

NUMBER OF ISSUERS

6

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)

A1	52.7%
A2	47.3%

### Education and Training – Aggregated KPI<sup>19</sup>

85,900 students supported<sup>20</sup>

19. A robust approach to measuring the impact of its underlying assets is of prime importance to the CT Global Social Bond Fund. However, the Fund must operate within the confines of data availability and data variation challenges across issuers. Therefore, within KPIs presented, there is no attribution based on the size of the Fund's investment – they show the results achieved in aggregate for a given bond based on their allocation to eligible projects. The KPIs reported are also not definitive and are likely to vary year-on-year based on data availability within the impact reports of the Fund's issuers.

Impact data is sourced primarily from issuer disclosures, including impact reports, annual reports, regulatory filings, Net Purpose and corporate websites. Where available, issuer-reported KPIs are used. In cases where issuer data is incomplete, inconsistent, or not sufficiently reliable, metrics are excluded from aggregation. The Fund does not independently verify issuer-reported impact data and relies on publicly available information.

To ensure the integrity of aggregated metrics, KPI data is assessed for consistency and clarity of methodology. Data that does not meet these criteria is excluded from aggregation. Examples of excluded data include metrics with unclear definitions, inconsistent reporting periods, or double counting.

20. KPI data aggregated across 2 sustainability/social bonds.

## CASE STUDY – ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SOCIAL BOND

### Case study selection process and purpose

TGE selection, chosen to ensure a range of geographies are represented (Asian focus)

### Region

Asia

### SDG alignment

SDG 4 – Quality Education

### Bond rating

A2

### Socioeconomic focus

Key focus – targeting lower income, developing countries

### The issuer

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a leading multilateral development bank supporting inclusive, resilient growth across Asia and the Pacific, aiming to eradicate extreme poverty in the region. It uses innovative financial tools and strategic partnerships to transform lives, build quality infrastructure, and safeguard the planet. ADB directs 100% of its activities toward projects with measurable social outcomes, addressing challenges such as climate change, water security, inequality, and poverty.

### The bond

The Fund purchased the AUD 1 billion 10-year education-focused Social Bond on the secondary market in January 2024, one year after it was issued. Since its first loan for education in 1970, ADB has allocated almost \$20 billion to

the sector, recognising its role in fostering inclusive growth and resilience. Reducing inequality in education remains central to ADB's efforts to alleviate poverty, with its programs often succeeding in achieving positive results, particularly when targeted at girls, poor households, and marginalised groups.

An example of a project supported by ADB education bonds is the \$80 million Secondary Education for Human Capital Competitiveness Project in Cambodia, designed to improve access to education. The project is predominately aimed at students with learning disabilities, by developing assistive technology and supporting special education secondary schools. The project will promote STEM subjects, while also allowing students to develop soft skills that will prepare them for their life after school.<sup>19</sup>

[Columbia Threadneedle engaged with ADB in May 2025 to get an update on their operations, project selection, the impact of the US election result, and to encourage better bond level impact reporting and bond alignments to the ICMA.](#)



19. [ASB Theme Bonds for Sustainable Development](#), July 2025.

## Employment



### Problem Statement

Global job growth lags rising workforce demand, worsened by credit-constrained businesses and increasing job insecurity.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

13

% FUND ALLOCATION

10.7%

NUMBER OF ISSUERS

11

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)



### Employment – Aggregated KPI<sup>21</sup>

9,969,000 jobs created<sup>22</sup>

21. A robust approach to measuring the impact of its underlying assets is of prime importance to the CT Global Social Bond Fund. However, the Fund must operate within the confines of data availability and data variation challenges across issuers. Therefore, within KPIs presented, there is no attribution based on the size of the Fund's investment – they show the results achieved in aggregate for a given bond based on their allocation to eligible projects. The KPIs reported are also not definitive and are likely to vary year-on-year based on data availability within the impact reports of the Fund's issuers.

Impact data is sourced primarily from issuer disclosures, including impact reports, annual reports, regulatory filings, Net Purpose and corporate websites. Where available, issuer-reported KPIs are used. In cases where issuer data is incomplete, inconsistent, or not sufficiently reliable, metrics are excluded from aggregation. The Fund does not independently verify issuer-reported impact data and relies on publicly available information.

To ensure the integrity of aggregated metrics, KPI data is assessed for consistency and clarity of methodology. Data that does not meet these criteria is excluded from aggregation. Examples of excluded data include metrics with unclear definitions, inconsistent reporting periods, or double counting.

22. KPI data aggregated across 2 social bonds.



### CASE STUDY – STANDARD CHARTERED

#### Case study selection process and purpose

Columbia Threadneedle Investment selection, chosen to demonstrate the Fund's exposure to emerging markets

#### Region

Emerging markets (Asia, Africa, and the Middle East)

#### SDG alignment

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

#### Bond rating

A1

#### Socioeconomic focus

Dedicated focus – targeting low-income countries, women, rural, disaster-impacted, disabled people, low-income households, and marginalised communities

#### The issuer

Founded in 1853, Standard Chartered is an international banking and financial services group offering a wide range of services, including retail and corporate banking, wealth management, and trade finance. The Group primarily operates across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. It has committed to mobilising \$300 billion in Sustainable Finance by 2030 and aims to drive social impact through both its corporate and philanthropic activities. Examples include extending more than \$300 million in financing to women-owned businesses since November 2022 through the SC Women's International Network banking proposition, and the Futuremakers Initiative, which helps disadvantaged young people access economic opportunities through employability and entrepreneurship support, reaching over 2.1 million people to date.

#### The bond

In March 2025, the Fund purchased Standard Chartered's inaugural Social Bond (valued at €1 billion with eight-year term) on the primary market. The bond primarily facilitates lending to SMEs, ensuring access to finance, helping boost employment, and empowering and nurturing women-owned SMEs.<sup>23</sup> The capital raised from the bond will join Standard Chartered's Sustainable Finance asset pool, which contains \$5.5 billion in social assets. 99% of these assets are located in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, including many least, low, and lower-income countries, where demand for finance is acute.

Standard Chartered has also demonstrated additionality, with sustainable assets in its asset portfolio having grown 32% year-on-year and social lending growing 56% year-on-year (this includes both new and re-classified loans).<sup>24</sup> This has enabled improved quality of life for recipients of finance, by supporting basic needs such as employment, housing, and healthcare, in lower-income countries.

**In March 2025, Columbia Threadneedle engaged with Standard Chartered to discuss its growth, encourage future issuance, and elevate reporting, with Standard Chartered keen to issue more social bonds in future and consider recommendations to include case studies on new loans and beneficiary voice in their impact reporting.**

23. Standard Chartered, *Sustainability Bond Framework*, 2024.

24. Standard Chartered, *Sustainable Finance Impact Report*, 2024.

## Community



### Problem Statement

Communities face growing pressure from inequality, crises, rapid urbanisation and demographic changes, limiting access to essential services and cohesion.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

5

% FUND ALLOCATION

3.0%

NUMBER OF ISSUERS

5

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)

A1	42%
A2	58%

### Community – Bond-Level KPI<sup>25</sup>

- State of Berlin – 35,706 families benefitting from community support<sup>26</sup>

25. This outcome area spans a wide range of fields, which makes it impractical to aggregate standardised units of impact at the outcome level. As a result, we present bond-level KPIs to illustrate outcome performance in a more meaningful and decision-useful way.

26. Sustainability Bond. Source: State of Berlin Sustainable Bond report 2023.

## CASE STUDY – BANK GOSPODARSTWA KRAJOWEGO

### Case study selection process and purpose

Columbia Threadneedle Investments selection, chosen as example of a general purpose corporate bond that has funding ringfenced for social projects

### Region

Europe (Poland)

### SDG alignment

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

### Bond rating

A2

### Socioeconomic focus

Priority focus – targeting Ukrainian refugees in Poland and host communities of Ukrainian refugees

### The issuer

Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego is a state-owned Polish development bank and is one of the five largest development banks in Europe. It has been supporting Poland's sustainable socio-economic development since 1924.

### The bond

Issued March 2025, the Fund purchased the €1.25 billion, 5-year bond on the primary market. Despite being a general purpose bond, its proceeds are specifically ring-fenced for the issuer's Aid Fund, to ensure it targets social outcomes.

The Aid Fund's primary objective is to provide critical support to Ukrainian refugees who have sought safety in Poland, as well as to strengthen the capacity of host communities. This includes both immediate humanitarian relief and longer-term integration measures. Priority initiatives currently focus on:

- Supplying reception centre services
- Providing psychological and medical care, including medical products

- Funding family, parental, and social assistance benefits
- Ensuring nursery and school education for Ukrainian children.

Beyond these urgent interventions, the Aid Fund may also allocate resources to projects that enhance community wellbeing and promote social inclusion. Potential investments include urban regeneration, development of green spaces, and creation of sports or cultural facilities, each aimed at fostering stability and cohesion between refugees and local populations.

The programme delivers significant additive benefits by safeguarding individuals from the armed conflict in Ukraine, supporting their physical and mental health, and helping them rebuild their livelihoods in a secure environment. By reinforcing public services and infrastructure in Polish host communities, the Aid Fund also mitigates pressure on local resources, creating a more sustainable support system for both refugees and residents.



## Access to Services



### Problem Statement

Global barriers to protective and fairer financial, mobility, and digital services, limit inclusive economic and social participation.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

20

% FUND ALLOCATION

8.3%

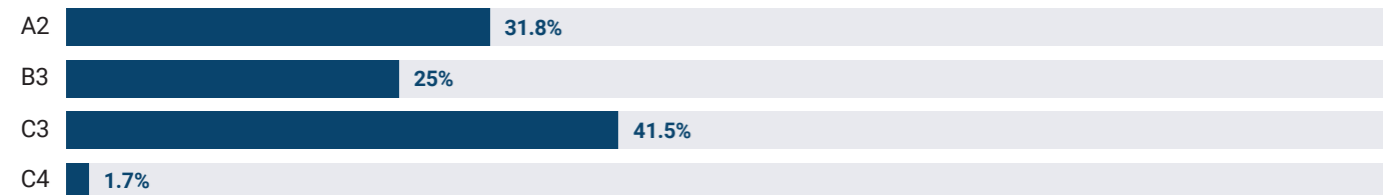
NUMBER OF ISSUERS

19

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)



### Access to Services – Bond-Level KPIs<sup>27</sup>

- Republic of Chile – **2,535,807** of households supported by government subsidies to support income-subsidy and home ownership<sup>28</sup>
- Orange – **1,800,000** beneficiaries of digital training<sup>29</sup>

## CASE STUDY – ORANGE

### Case study selection process and purpose

TGE selection, chosen as an example of a C3 rated bond

### Region

USA

### SDG alignment

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### Bond rating

C3

### Socioeconomic focus

Beneficial focus – beneficial for low income, early school leavers, and women

### The issuer

Orange is a French multinational telecommunications operator and digital service provider. It operates in 26 countries and has 291 million customers worldwide.

### The bond

In September 2024, the Fund acquired a \$2.5 billion, 30-year bond issued in February 2002 on the secondary market. As a general corporate bond with no ring-fencing, the social intentionality and intensity of the bond is lower and hence it is rated as a 'C3'. However, Orange has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the digital divide, with particular benefits for underserved groups such as poor students in Africa, early school leavers in Europe, and women seeking technology skills.

The bond supports Orange's core operations: delivering telecommunications devices and infrastructure that enable connectivity, education, and economic participation. Through its initiatives, Orange has made demonstrated measurable progress in bridging digital gaps. In 2022, the company's workshops and training programmes reached over 593,000 people, equipping individuals with essential digital literacy and skills. The programmes proved beneficial for those with greater socio-economic need; they created educational opportunities for African schoolchildren, enhanced employment prospects for early school leavers, and allowed for greater entrepreneurial opportunities for women establishing online businesses. Orange also operates 18 Digital Centres worldwide, providing low-income communities with access to technology, training, and mentorship. These facilities foster inclusion by offering tools and knowledge essential in today's digital economy.



27. This outcome area spans a wide range of fields, which makes it impractical to aggregate standardised units of impact at the outcome level. As a result, we present bond-level KPIs to illustrate outcome performance in a more meaningful and decision-useful way.

28. Social Bond. Source: 2023 impact report from the issuer.

29. General Corporate Purpose Bond. Source: FY2023 Orange Financial Results.

## Economic Regeneration and Development



### Problem Statement

Aging and inadequate infrastructure, coupled with rising climate risks, require major investment for resilience and sustainability.

### Headline figures

NUMBER OF BONDS

68

% FUND ALLOCATION

30.8%

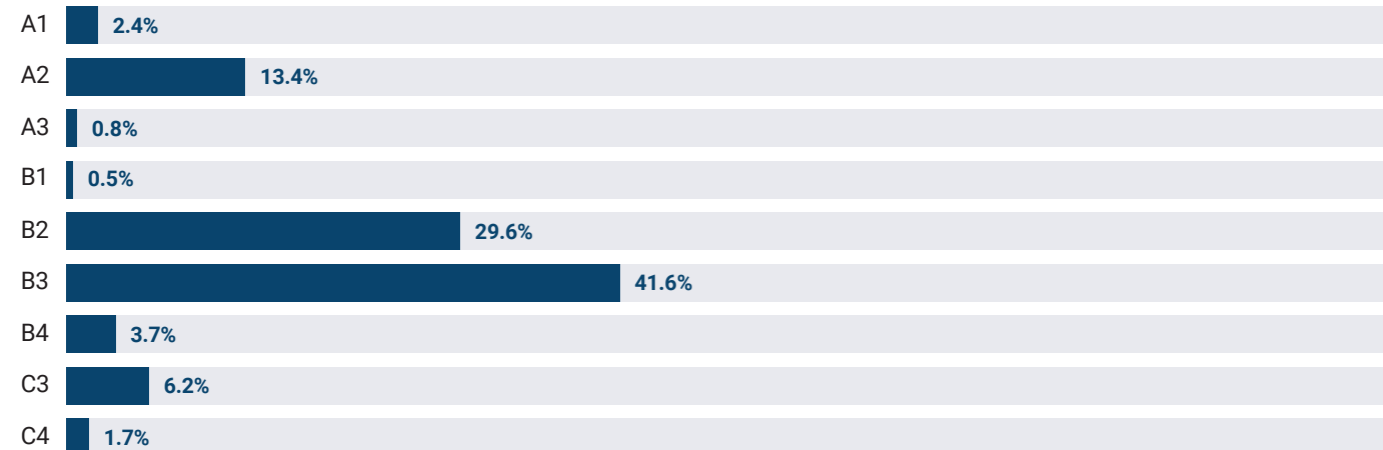
NUMBER OF ISSUERS

57

SDGs TARGETED



### Bond ratings (by value)



### Economic Regeneration and Development – Bond-Level KPIs<sup>30</sup>

- New South Wales Treasury Corporation – 21% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and 14% reduction in water use as a result of the new Parramatta Light Rail Project in Sydney<sup>31</sup>
- NBN – 60% reduction in emissions intensity in four years<sup>32</sup>
- Netherlands Development Finance – 3,109tCO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided and 397 direct and indirect jobs supported<sup>33</sup>
- Export Development Canada – 241,100MWh of renewable energy generated<sup>34</sup>

30. This outcome area spans a wide range of fields, which makes it impractical to aggregate standardised units of impact at the outcome level. As a result, we present bond-level KPIs to illustrate outcome performance in a more meaningful and decision-useful way.

31. Sustainability Bond. Source: 2024 Sustainability Bond Report.

32. 12.12kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/TB in FY2020, to 4.88 in FY2024. Green Bond. Source: 2024 Sustainability Bond Report.

33. Green Bond. Source: 2025 Sustainability Bonds Newsletter No.16.

34. Green Bond. Source: 2024 Sustainable Bond Impact Report.

## CASE STUDY – COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA GREEN BOND

### Case study selection process and purpose

Columbia Threadneedle Investments selection, chosen to ensure a range of geographies are represented (Australia) and due to the Fund's successful issuer engagement

### Region

Australia

### SDG alignment

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

### Bond rating

B1

### Socioeconomic focus

Beneficial focus – targeting the general population but with a focus on First Nations and those negatively impacted by the energy transition



### The issuer

The Australian Treasury is the spending arm of the Australian Government. Its primary focus is spending within Australia, but they also have bilateral relations and support projects across the Pacific and South-East Asia.

### The bond

In June 2024, the Australian Treasury issued a 10-year, AUD 9.3 billion Green Bond. The Fund purchased the bond on the primary market, with proceeds intended to refinance existing projects and finance new initiatives. It is expected that less than 50% of the funds will be allocated to projects financed in the previous year, while over 50% will support projects planned for the next two years, meaning the bond is considered to have high additionality.

The bond provides significant additional benefits by emphasising the importance of a just transition, improving access to affordable renewable energy, preserving tourism and jobs through environmental protection, and addressing impacts on First Nations communities.

The bond will fund a diverse range of green projects, such as:

- Rewiring the Nation: AUD 20 billion investment to modernise Australia's electricity grid, making clean energy more accessible and affordable.
- Driving the Nation: AUD 500 million fund to develop a national electric vehicle charging network, supporting cleaner transportation.
- Household Energy Upgrades Fund: AUD 1 billion in discounted financing to help consumers improve the sustainability of their homes.
- Climate Adaptation: Projects across the Pacific and South-East Asia aimed at mitigating climate impacts and preserving natural environments, with an expected AUD 3 billion investment from 2020 to 2025.
- Protect the Reef: AUD 1.2 billion allocated through to 2030 to improve water quality, reduce fishing risks, and strengthen the Great Barrier Reef, which is vital for tourism and local employment.

Columbia Threadneedle has engaged with the Treasury on several occasions, including during the development of its inaugural Green Bond Framework. These engagements proved highly influential, contributing to the inclusion of Just Transition and social co-benefits within the framework. This pioneering approach has since encouraged other Australian issuers to adopt similar considerations in their own frameworks. Giving beneficiaries a meaningful voice in decision-making remains essential to achieving positive social outcomes.<sup>35</sup>

35. Australian Government Green Bond Framework, December 2025.

# Conclusions and Forward Look

## TGE's Reflections on the Fund's Contribution to Positive Social Outcomes

### Strengths

- In line with recommendations from The Good Economy, the Fund has significantly increased the percentage of fund value invested in bonds purchased on the primary market, from 36% in June 2024 to 52% in June 2025. In doing so, the Fund has greater scope to influence issuers and contributes a higher level of additionality, which in turn leads to a greater contribution to positive social outcomes.
- One of the main ways the Fund aims to contribute to positive social outcomes is through investor contribution, directly engaging with issuers and the wider industry. In the 12-months to June 2025, the Fund engaged with 158 issuers and had a 96.8% response rate. The issuer that The Good Economy spoke to were positive about their engagements with the Fund, reinforcing the impact that the Fund is having on delivering social outcomes.
- The Fund's proprietary bond rating system categorises bonds based on intentionality and intensity and has two binding targets: at least 30% of Fund value must be invested in 'A' rated bonds, and no more than 20% of Fund value can be invested in 'C3' or 'C4' rated bonds. As was the case in 2024, the Fund continues to convincingly exceed both targets, with the percentage of Fund value in 'A' rated bonds rising by three percentage points to 55.8%, and the percentage of Fund value invested in 'C3' or 'C4' bonds only raising marginally to 5.8%.

### Areas for improvement

- The portfolio remains weighted towards 'Economic Regeneration and Development'; TGE would encourage a greater diversification into other outcome areas to maximise positive social outcomes. However, we acknowledge that substantial capital is needed to fund essential infrastructure improvements that ensure reliable access to critical services, providing people with water, warm homes and connectivity.
- Out of the five socio-economic focus categories, the lowest percentage of fund allocation in 2025 went to bonds with a 'Dedicated' socio-economic focus (most targeted towards disadvantaged populations), therefore a stronger focus on bonds within this focus category is encouraged. However, we acknowledge one of Columbia Threadneedle's key engagement areas is encouraging increased targeting towards in-need populations in listed assets.

## Columbia Threadneedle Investments' Reflections on the Fund's Performance

For the past year, global bond markets have had to digest some significant issues. These have included national elections, global trade tariffs and shifting sentiment towards sustainable activities. Given this environment of elevated uncertainty, we have stayed true to our active investment philosophy and portfolio construction approach. We've been active in supporting the fund's dual objective: to deliver financial return aligned with traditional investment grade credit, whilst intentionally directing capital to activities and entities that support positive social outcomes.

With strong performance by credit markets and with cyclical sub-sectors outperforming, we have delivered financial return consistent with the broad market but via intentional investment selection consistent with our values and screens. With our proactive engagement and with our participation in both primary and secondary markets, we've sourced new investment opportunities and have been particularly proud to have improved portfolio diversification.

We facilitate a wide spectrum of engagements. These include 1:1 discussions, including with sovereigns and their related entities, and to support social co-benefit and community voice into bond frameworks. Any success here could then encourage similar standards to replicate within a region and across wider for-profit sectors.

We thank the work of our committee members and The Good Economy, who expertly advise us on a range of topical social considerations. The committee oversee the portfolio's social outcomes and sets social targets to ensure we continually strive to improve the portfolio.

Lastly, we're committed to our belief that fixed income investments play a critical role in financing social solutions, and in the scale needed to help address the world's social challenges. We differentiate ourselves with our intensive research, our proprietary social assessments and our active engagements to deliver meaningful social outcomes alongside financial return.



# Appendix

## Appendix 1: Managing Risk

Impact risk is the likelihood that impact will be different than expected, and that the difference will be material from the perspective of those being impacted. We have analysed the potential risks relating to the CT Global Social Bond Fund using Impact Frontiers' impact risk assessment framework.<sup>36</sup>

Impact Frontiers identifies ten types of impact risk that enterprises and investors may face. We have classified three categories of risk as potentially material in relation to the Fund. In the table below, we describe the nature of these risks, the level of risk and the mitigating actions the Fund is undertaking.

For the CT Global Social Bond Fund, it is important to note the role that its Social Advisory Committee (SAC) plays in mitigating its risk exposure. For any individual issuer that the Fund team sees as higher risk, this will be discussed at a quarterly SAC meeting. This helps to provide a robust and ongoing process to review and mitigate any potential risks to social outcomes faced by the Fund.



Impact risk category	Risk description	Likelihood	Severity	Fund risk mitigation strategies
<b>Evidence risk</b> The probability that insufficient high-quality data exists to know what impact is occurring	With bond finance, there is a risk of having insufficient data to evidence if/the extent to which the intended outcomes are occurring, and what the contribution of bond finance has been to those outcomes. This risk is higher for general corporate purpose bonds, which make up 21% of the portfolio.	Medium	Low	79% of the Fund's value is invested in specific use of proceeds bonds, which are required to report the allocation and impacts associated with the proceeds. This therefore provides good visibility across the outcomes the Fund has contributed towards across a substantial portion of its portfolio.  The Fund also commissions TGE to produce an Annual Impact Report, which provides an independent assessment of the Fund's impact performance.
<b>Community participation risk</b> The probability that the expectations and/or experience of community members are misunderstood or not taken into account	When projects designed to have a positive social outcome fail to include the community members it will impact in the decision-making process, the outcomes can be misaligned with what community members want/need and can have unintended consequences.	Low	Low	The Fund has an embedded engagement objective and through its engagement framework has encouraged issuers to involve community voice in their decision-making. In doing so, bond finance is more likely to achieve the social outcomes that are needed in communities.

Impact risk category	Risk description	Likelihood	Severity	Fund risk mitigation strategies
<b>Alignment risk</b> The probability that impact is not locked into the enterprise model	Particularly with general corporate purpose bonds, there is a risk that issuers do not operate in a way to deliver the expected impact and/or they actively cause harm to people and/or the environment through their business.	Low	Medium	The Fund has an active exclusions policy which screens out issuers operating in sectors which are assessed to have minimal or unusual social benefit, or at high risk of adverse social and sustainability impacts. In addition, the Fund applies additional exclusions based on the Fund's minimum standards. It makes a further assessment to determine whether there are any additional ESG factors, including controversies, which could affect the overall eligibility or social impact rating of the bond.  On an ongoing basis, the Social Advisory Committee also reviews and comments on selected holdings regarding their suitability given the Fund's social focus.
	Through investing in listed bonds, there is a risk that the Fund is not meaningfully contributing to a change in outcomes, particularly when purchasing listed bonds on the secondary market.	Medium	Low	The Fund's strategy intentionally aims to contribute to positive outcomes through targeting bonds that finance socially beneficial activities. The Fund has developed a detailed methodology to shape an investment universe of issuers which have the potential to contribute to a range of social outcome areas. This signals that impact matters by actively considering positive and negative impacts as part of the investment decision-making process.  The Fund has increased its value allocation to primary bonds to increase additionality, and continues to seek to target new developments over refinancing where possible.

36. Impact Frontiers, [Impact Risk](#).

## Appendix 2: Data Sources

Data source / evidence	Overview	Evidence risk	Limitation
Portfolio data	Data provided by the Fund relating to bonds it has invested in, offering a bond-level portfolio overview. This includes details such as the use of proceeds, SDG goals and targets, target population, region, internal social intensity matrix score, fund allocation, outcome area, and more.	Low	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by the Fund.
Bond assessments	Bond Assessment documents created by the Fund that offer an overview of the bond, encompassing questions posed to the issuer, governance details, the Fund's internal social intensity assessment, and links to related fund documents. These documents informed the case studies presented in each outcome area section of the report.	Low	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by the Fund.  In addition to the case studies highlighted in this report, TGE conduct regular bond assessments for all new investments as well as more detailed reviews during quarterly Advisory Committee Meetings.
Issuance-level KPI data	Impact KPI data is sourced primarily from issuer disclosures, including impact reports, annual reports, regulatory filings, Net Purpose and corporate websites. Where available, issuer-reported KPIs are used. In cases where issuer data is incomplete, inconsistent, or not sufficiently reliable, metrics are excluded from aggregation. The Fund does not independently verify issuer-reported impact data and relies on publicly available information. To ensure the integrity of aggregated metrics, KPI data is assessed for consistency and clarity of methodology. Data that does not meet these criteria is excluded from aggregation. Examples of excluded data include metrics with unclear definitions, inconsistent reporting periods, or double counting.	Low	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by the Fund and associated reports by issuers.
Examples of redacted deals	Four examples of redacted deals that the Fund did not invest in after going through the due diligence process.	Low	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by the Fund.
Impact reports/ use of proceeds reports	Impact reports / use of proceeds reports for selected bonds that we drew upon to partly inform the case studies throughout the report.	Low	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by issuers for reports. We only looked at reports relevant to the case studies, not all reports for all bonds.
Interviews with the fund team	Interviews with the Fund team in which we sought to understand details on the Fund's key processes, including bond selection, social assessment scoring methodology, monitoring and reporting, and issuer engagements.	Low	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by the Fund team.
Interview with an issuer	Interview with an issuer in which we sought to understand the issuer's relationship with the Fund, the extent to which the Fund does/is able to influence the issuer, and insights into the Fund's level of engagement with the issuer prior to and during investment.	Medium	Reliant on accuracy of information provided by the issuer. We only spoke to one issuer to gain an understanding of the process and relationship, but this is not representative of all issuers.

## Appendix 3: Full List of Bond Issuers

Bond issuers for whom Columbia Threadneedle hold multiple different bonds are denoted as 'x' the number of bonds held at that rating.

Outcome area	Bond issuers			
Access to Services	Banca Monte Dei Paschi Di Siena SpA	A2	Pension Insurance Corp PLC	C3
	Chile (Republic of)	A2	Permanent TSB Group Holdings PLC	B3
	Co-Operative Bank Finance PLC	B3	Phoenix Group Holdings PLC	C3
	Guardian Life Global Funding	B3	Prudential Financial INC	C4
	Massmutual Global Funding II	B3	RL Finance Bonds No 4 PLC	C4
	Motability Operations Group PLC	A2 x2	Teachers Insur & Annuity	C3
	Nationwide Building Society	B3	Telstra Group Ltd MTN Regs	C3
	New York Life Insurance Company	C3	Vodafone Group PLC	C3
	Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance 144A	B3	Yorkshire Building Society	A2
	Orange SA	C3		
Affordable Housing	Aster Treasury Plc	A1	Housing New Zealand Ltd	A1 x2
	Banco BPM SpA	A1	Kookmin Bank	A2
	Bayerische Landesbodenkreditanstalt	A1	Korea Housing Finance Corp	A1 x3
	Blend Funding PLC	A1	La Banque Postale	A1
	BNG Bank NV	A1 x1	Natwest Group PLC	A1 x2
	Chile (Republic of)	A2 x1	Places For People Treasury PLC	A1
	Citibank NA	A1	Saltaire Finance PLC	A1
	Deutsche Bank	A1	South Australian Government Financing Authority	A1 x1
	Flemish Community of Housing Australia	A2	Vonovia SE	A2 x2
		A1	Wells Fargo & Company	A1
Community	Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego Berlin (State Of)	A2	International Bank For Reconstruction and Development	A1
	Inter-American Devel BK	A2	International Development Association	A1
Economic Regeneration and Development	Agence Francaise de Developpement	A2	France (Republic of)	B2
	Air Liquide Finance SA	C3	Germany (Federal Republic of)	B3
	Alliander NV	B2	Iberdrola Finanzas SAU	B3
	Amprion GmbH	B2	ING Groep NV	B3 x2
	Amvest RCF Custodian BV	B3	Ireland (Government)	B3
	Asian Development Bank	A2	Japan International Cooperation Agency	A1 x1
	Asr Nederland NV	B4		A2 x2
	Ausgrid Finance Pty Ltd	C3	KfW	B3 x2
	Australia (Commonwealth of) Regs	B1	Kommunalbanken Norway	B2
	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	B3	Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank	A3
	Austria (Republic of)	B3	Metropolitan Life Global Funding I	B3
	Autonomous Community of Madrid Spain	B2	NBN Co Ltd	B2 x2
	Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA	B3	Netherlands (Kingdom Of)	A2
	Bank of America Corp	B3	Netherlands Development Finance Co Regs	B2
	Bank of Ireland Group	B3	New South Wales Treasury Corporati Regs	B2
	Bank of Ireland Group PLC	B3	Nordic Investment Bank	B3
	BPCE SFH	B2	NSTAR Electric Co	B3
	Cadent Finance PLC	B3	NXP BV	C3
	Caisse Francaise de Financement Local	B2	Oncor Electric Delivery	B3
	Commerzbank AG	B3 x3	Pacific Life Gf II	B3
	Consolidated Edison Company of NY	B3	Pacific Life Global Funding II	B3
	Deutsche Bahn Finance GmbH	B3	Prologis Euro Finance LLC	C4
	Digital Dutch Finco BV	B3	Prologis International Funding II SA	C4
	Ds Smith PLC	B3	Societe Nationale SNCF SA	B2
	E.on SE	B3	Statnett SF	B3 x1
	EDP Sa	B2		B4 x1
	Enexis Holding NV	B2 x1	Tennet Holding BV	B4
	Erste Group Bank AG	B3 x1	Triodos Bank NV	B3
	Eurogrid GmbH	B4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Government)	B2
	European Investment Bank	B3	Verizon Communications	B3
Export Development Canada	A1			
	B2			
Education and Training	Asian Development Bank	A2	KBC Group NV MTN RegS	A2
	Communaute Francaise De Belgique	A2	North-Rhine Westphalia State of	A1 x2
	European Investment Bank	A1	Pearson Funding PLC	A1 x2

Outcome area	Bond issuers			
Employment	Asian Development Bank	A2	Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	A1
	Caixabank SA	A1	NRW Bank	A1
	Compass Group PLC	A2	Standard Chartered PLC MTN RegS	A1
	Credit Agricole SA	A1	Unedic	A1 x2
	European Union International Finance Corp MTN	A2 x2 A1	Wallonie State of	A1
Health and Welfare	Abbvie INC	B2 x2	Galicia Autonomous Community of	A1
	AIB Group PLC	A1	GE Healthcare Technologies INC	B3
	Amgen INC	B2	Gilead Sciences INC	B2
	Astrazeneca PLC	B2	HCA INC	B2 x2
	Basque Autonomous Community of	A1	Humana INC	B2
	Becton Dickinson and Company	B2	International Finance Facility for Immunisation	A1
	BPCE SA	A1	Company	
	Bristol-Myers Squibb Co	B3	Merck & Co INC	B3
	Bupa Finance PLC	B3 x2	Pfizer INC	A2
	Centene Corporation	B2	Praemia Healthcare SA	A2
	Council of Europe Development Bank	A1 x2	Region Wallonne Belgium	A1
	CVS Health Corp	B3 x3	Republika Slovenija	A2
	Elevance Health INC	B3	Roche Holdings INC	B2 x2
	Eli Lilly & Company	B2	Wellcome Trust Ltd/The	A2
	European Investment Bank	A2	Welltower INC	B3

## Appendix 4: Social Advisory Committee Member Biographies

### Sarah Forster *CEO & Co-Founder, The Good Economy & Chair of the Social Advisory Committee*

Sarah Forster is CEO and Co-Founder of The Good Economy (TGE), a leading impact advisory firm dedicated to enhancing the contribution of business and finance to inclusive and sustainable development.

She has been at the forefront of finance for positive impact for more than 25 years, working in the fields of sustainable economic development, development finance, and impact measurement and management both internationally and in the UK. She combines a strong knowledge of public and private sector development policy issues with hands-on experience in the design of impact investment vehicles mobilising capital to achieve positive social impact as well as commercial financial returns.

Prior to establishing TGE, Sarah held senior positions at The World Bank, the New Economics Foundation and Big Issue Invest.

### Simon Bond *Former Executive Director – Responsible Investment Portfolio Management, Columbia Threadneedle Investments*

Simon Bond is a former Executive Director RI Portfolio Management at Columbia Threadneedle having joined in 2003 as a Senior Fund manager to manage institutional Investment Grade Credit Funds. Simon conceived of, launched, and managed the CT UK Social Bond Fund since its inception in 2013, as well as the Threadneedle (Lux) European Social Bond Fund launched in 2017. Simon retired from the firm in March 2023.

Simon has over 37 years' experience in the investment industry, with the last 32 years specialising in corporate credit. Prior to joining Columbia Threadneedle, Simon managed £6bn in his role as the Senior UK Credit Fund Manager for AXA. He also worked for GE Insurance as a

Portfolio Manager, Provident Mutual as a Fixed Income Analyst, and Hambros Bank as an Investment Accountant and Pension Fund Investment Administrator.

Simon is a Board Member and Lead Expert at the Impact Investing Institute. He is also a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, established by the London School of Economics and Political Science. He sits on the Responsible Investment Advisory Council of Columbia Threadneedle. He is an Independent Member of the Social Advisory Committees for the three Columbia Threadneedle Investments Social Bond Funds (as Chair for the UK Fund). He is a member of the Examination Panel of the CFA level 4 Impact Certificate and continues to advise Big Issue on Impact.

Simon is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, a member of the Guild of Investment Managers and a Freeman of the City of London.

### René Kim *Founding Partner, Steward Redqueen*

René Kim is a founding partner of Steward Redqueen. He has a long track record in the development of impact evaluations, socio-economic impact analysis and sustainable strategy development. He acts as advisor to multinational corporations and development banks.

He pioneered an innovative impact measurement methodology and his understanding of emerging and frontier markets is widely recognised in the market. He led economic impact studies across developed and emerging markets for multinationals and international organisations in various sectors, such as food and beverages, agriculture, finance, mining, power and pharma. He also has experience in helping (development) finance institutions in emerging markets in developing a strategic approach towards sustainable development.

Before joining Steward Redqueen he worked for The Boston Consulting Group as consultant and project leader. Prior to pursuing a business career, he was a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was a visiting scientist and post-doctoral associate in the field of Hydrology and Climatology. He holds a cum laude PhD from Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

### Tammie Tang *Executive Director, Lead Portfolio Manager for Social Bond Funds, Columbia Threadneedle Investments*

Tammie Tang is a senior portfolio manager in the Fixed Income team with a focus on investment grade credit, having joined the company in 2012. She is lead portfolio manager for Columbia Threadneedle's UK, European and global social bond strategies, as well as various institutional UK credit strategies and the Threadneedle Pensions Corporate Bond Fund. Tammie's responsibilities and focus are geared towards generating active returns and alignment with clients' sustainability objectives.

Tammie previously worked at JPMorgan in New York, where she held roles in structuring, trading and portfolio management within more complex interest rate and credit derivative products for the bank's asset management and insurance clients. Tammie started her career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sydney, in an actuarial consulting role where she provided detailed pricing, valuation and statistical modelling work for insurance clients.

Tammie holds a Master of Statistics from the University of New South Wales and is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries Australia.

**Sally Springer**  
*Senior Sustainable Research  
Analyst, Columbia Threadneedle  
Investments*

Sally Springer joined Columbia Threadneedle Investments in 2022. As part of global research, Sally focuses on thematic research analysing the risks and opportunities arising from the transition in human capital and demographic changes across sectors and industries. She collaborates closely with investment teams and engages with companies most exposed to these themes.

She previously worked as an equity research analyst and an industry policy lead for responsible investment regulation and legislation. Sally studied at the University of Warwick (BSc Economics) and gained the CFA charter in 2003.

**Samantha Curtis**  
*Emerging Markets Lead, The  
Good Economy*

Samantha Curtis has fifteen years of experience working in both asset management and impact investment. She is the Emerging Markets Lead

at The Good Economy, working with Global Funds clients, supporting them to improve and integrate their impact into reporting and decision-making.

Samantha started her career in asset management, working with Baillie Gifford in their Clients Department, supporting global institutional investors on portfolio analysis and reporting, covering a variety of asset classes. She also worked on proposal writing, business development, marketing and investment writing. In more recent years, Samantha has lived and worked in Nairobi, Kenya where she has experience consulting for impact investors such as LGT Impact, nonprofits and ESG firms, working in various roles including project management, research, business development and portfolio impact reviews.

**Ben Rosoman**  
*Consultant, Strategic Advisory  
Services, The Good Economy*

Ben Rosoman is a Consultant at The Good Economy (TGE), working within the Strategic Advisory Services team to support asset allocators, fund managers and local stakeholders to ensure that investment drives meaningful outcomes for people and places.

Since joining TGE in 2019, Ben has developed over six years of experience across TGE's full suite of impact services, from strategy development and impact integration to measurement and reporting. He has advised clients across the investment ecosystem and asset classes, with a particular focus on housing and real estate.

Ben has also played a key role in several of TGE's industry-shaping initiatives, contributing to the development of the Sustainability Reporting Standard for Social Housing (SRS) and supporting the production of two landmark White Papers on how institutional capital can support local and regional growth across the UK.

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## About Us

The Good Economy is a leading, independent impact advisory firm. Grounded in theoretical rigour and with a broad range of expertise within our industry-leading team, our services are designed to help clients meet the growing demand for greater confidence and credibility in strategies that create positive impact or pursue sustainability outcomes.

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