



#### **FUND OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the United Capital Wealth for Women Fund is to promote the financial inclusion of the female gender by increasing their access to financial investment products and addressing the current imbalance of most investment products being skewed towards the male gender.

The Fund Manager seeks to maintain a balance between realized income and capital growth to ensure regular distribution payments and continuous appreciation in asset values while ensuring optimal safety of assets and adequate liquidity to meet the Fund's obligations as they fall due. The Fund invests in money markets and equities. The equity portfolio is tilted towards companies with significant female representation on their boards and management teams.

## MARKET REVIEW, OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

In December, the bulls dominated the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) despite pockets of sell-interests during the month. As measured by market's breadth (4.35x), bargain hunting activities seemed to trigger the famous "Santa Rally", as investors looked to exploit short-mid-long-term opportunities. For context, 87 equities advanced in December compared to the 20 equities that depreciated. Notably, a standout performer was MTNN (+17.65% m/m), driven by Telcom operators' quest for 100.00% tariff hike, aimed toward addressing the significantly elevated operational costs, including inflation and increased service delivery expenses. Ultimately, the benchmark NGX-All Share Index (NGX-ASI) climbed by 5.56% m/m to close at 102,926.40 points, bringing 2023 YTD return to 37.65% with market capitalisation settling at N63.10trn. Interestingly, the performance of the NGX in 2024 looked to outpace domestic Inflation, which printed at 34.60% as of Nov-2024.

The financial system opened in December 2024 with a surplus balance of N111.04bn. System liquidity was dictated by inflows from NT-Bill maturities, Primary Market Auctions (NT-Bill and OMO auctions), and the increased activity in the SDF and SLF windows. The inflows in the month from N342.56bn worth of inflows emanating from coupon payments (N216.76bn) and OMO maturities (N125.80bn) were not sufficient to bolster the system liquidity. As a result, we saw increased activities at the Standing Lending Facility (SLF) window as banks sought to meet their short-term obligations. Thus, the financial system closed the month with a deficit balance of N166.29bn.

In the secondary Bond market, we observed bearish sentiments across the curve, particularly at the mid- and longend. The bonds maturing in 2029 saw the most sell-pressure with the yields on these instruments falling 88 – 140bps. This investment activity demonstrated the standoffish approach of investors towards duration-exposed instruments in the month. Thus, average yields on sovereign bonds rose to 19.75% in Dec-2024, 29bps m/m higher that the 19.46% print in Nov-2024.

Looking further into January 2025, we expect more of bullish sentiments in the equities market, as investors look to exploit the short-mid-long-term opportunities. Given the elevated levels of risk-free rates, coupled with the prospects for yield curve normalisation in H1-2025, we anticipate sustained interest toward the fixed income market, as investors look to lock in current high yields. This factor will likely weigh on the magnitude of interest toward risk asset classes. However, other factors including the anticipated progress on inflation (with a 95.00% chance of the high base effect kicking in, in Jan-2025).

In fixed income markets, we expect N2,035.50bn in inflows to the financial system, i.e. N166.62bn in coupon payments, N311.48bn from NT-Bill maturities, and N1,557.40bn from OMO maturities. The CBN is scheduled to hold 2 NT-Bill auctions in the month, issuing N515.00bn and N530.00bn, respectively. We expect strong participation at these auctions, with high demand for the 364-day bill. we expect bond yields to remain under pressure, particularly at the mid- to long-end of the curve, amidst weaker supply in the primary market, and investor's standoffish approach to long-term bonds



## **FUND FEATURES**

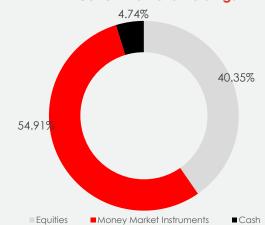
Fund Manager	United Capital Asset Management Ltd				
Base Currency/Start Year	Naira/2017				
Fund Size (#)	1.2bn				
NAV Per Share (#)	1.5193				
Minimum Entry (#)	10,000				
Additional Investment (#)	5,000				
Structure	Open Ended				
Entry/Exit Charges	Nil				
Management Fee	1.5%				
Total Expense Ratio*	1.9%				
Benchmarks	91-Day T-bills/NGX ASI				
Risk Profile	Moderate				
Investment Style	Market Oriented				

<sup>\*</sup> Inclusive of management fee; Returns are net of all fees

#### MATURITY PROFILE OF ASSETS

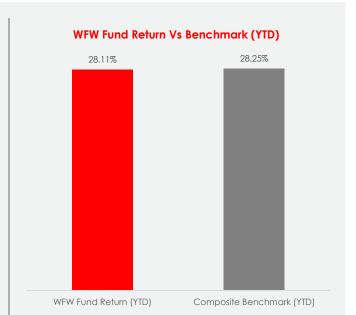
0-30days	23.42%
31-60days	63.68%
61-90days	12.91%
91-180days	0.00%
181-365days	0.00%





### Governance Asset Allocation Ranges:

Equities (10%-80%), Money Market Instruments (20% -90%)



# **RETURN HISTORY**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
UCAP WFW	7.79%	3.12%	6.60%	12.33%	31.90%	28.11%
Benchmark Return	1.12%	25.16%	5.56%	2.10%	23.99%	28.25%

\*Represents the Fund's Absolute Return vs the Benchmark's Absolute Return

## **PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

The United Capital Wealth For Women Fund returned 3.49% in December 2024, translating to a YTD return of 28.11% compared to the composite benchmark (91-day T-bills and the ASI) return of 28.25% for the same period.

The Nigerian stock market ended the month of December on a bullish note as the market index gained 5.56%. The positive sentiment was as a result of gains in CONOIL, INTERBREW, OKOMU, WAPCO and NB. We also saw gains in MTN (17.65%) on the back of news about the approval of tariff hike by the NCC.

Looking ahead, we would actively monitor activities in the equities market ahead of the release of FY 2024 earnings reports. The fund manger will continue to take position in tickers with good fundamentals and ensure a mix with money market and fixed income instruments.

We remain conservative in line with the investment policy objectives, as our selection of fundamentally strong stocks and high yielding money market instruments should further enhance the returns of the Fund going forward.



# WHY CHOOSE THE FUND?

- Low volatility of Investment returns
- Well diversified portfolio
- · Seamless entry and exit
- Professional management with robust risk framework
- Automatic rebalancing in times of rising or falling markets
- Ability to enjoy long term capital growth as well as safety

## **INVESTMENT RISK**

- Market risk of equity exposure
- Macroeconomic instability

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

- 1. Log in to our online platform www.investnow.ng
- 2. Click on "Wealth for Women Fund"
- 3. Click on "Open and account" and complete the online form
- 4. Fund your account online with a one-time payment or recurrent payments.

