

The EQ Positive Impact Portfolios invest in funds that are making a positive impact on society and the environment by investing in companies that provide solutions to real world problems. We use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a way to map this impact of their products and services.

Our quarterly updates feature examples of these companies and funds; here we will focus on three examples relating to Goals 3 – Good health and wellbeing; 7 – Affordable and clean energy; and 10 – Reduced inequalities.



Preventing and curing major public health threats

Some of the largest public health threats can take the form of diseases caused by exposure to harmful viruses and bacteria. Just these past years, we have witnessed thousands of lives being taken by rapid epidemics of infectious diseases like SARS, Influenza, Ebola and Zika. Both preventative actions (like the development of vaccinations) and effective countermeasures to the infected populations are necessary to control those public health threats at large. We have already seen great successes, such as the global initiative to eradicate polio, but as new diseases are developing so must the counteractive solutions.

FUND IN FOCUS

Hermes Impact Opportunities



Emergent BioSolutions has received investments from Hermes Impact Opportunities which favours companies addressing unmet needs in society and making a positive impact on people and the planet. Other companies within the fund that are leading innovation in healthcare include Illumina (producing gene sequencing technologies) and Syncona (developing immunotherapies for cancer treatment).

EXAMPLE HOLDING

Emergent BioSolutions



Emergent BioSolutions is a speciality US biopharmaceutical company focusing on counteractive treatments and preventative measures to some of the most serious public health threats.

The company provides vaccines to infectious diseases like typhoid and cholera, and antidotes to counteract biochemical attacks on soldiers and civilians. The company's innovative nature has made it a go-to company for urgent vaccine production in case of pandemics, illustrated in its role during the 2015 Ebola crisis.

Reflecting its focus on major public health threats and the current opioid epidemic that is straining the US healthcare system, Emergent has started to commercialise an easy-use, life-saving antidote that can be given to individuals who have overdosed on heroin.





Utilising energy from the Earth’s core to green the grids

Climate change, and our need to limit our Earth’s warming to 1.5°C in order to prevent the most devastating effects on the planet, drives the demand for the green energy transition. The UK government, for example, plans to have ‘net-zero’ greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Some of the most well-known renewable energy technologies convert wind and solar energy into electricity for human use – without carbon emissions. Geothermal energy technologies also harness zero-carbon energy sources: the continuous flow of heat from the Earth’s hot centre to the Earth’s cooler surface.

FUND IN FOCUS

Impax Environmental Markets



Ormat Technologies has received investment from Impax Environmental Markets, which invests in specialised firms solving environmental sustainability challenges. Other companies in the fund that are facilitating the renewable energy transition include Vestas Wind Systems that provides wind turbine parts, and Takmar Group that ensures offshore wind farm connectivity to the grid.



EXAMPLE HOLDING

Ormat Technologies



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Ormat Technologies is a global renewable energy provider, specialising in developing and managing geothermal energy projects, and selling the green electricity to the grid. As it designs, builds and manages the ‘power plants’ across the geothermal value chain, it holds special expertise in fitting technologies to unique geographical settings. Ormat Technologies manages about 19% of the global geothermal market, reliably greening the grids across the world from Kenya and Indonesia to Iceland and the US. Geothermal electricity has large growth potential, particularly due to the reliability of its electricity output compared to the more variable output from wind and solar technologies.

Want to learn more about the UN Goals, and why we use them? Take a look at our 2018 Impact Report – and calculate the impact of your own portfolio online – at: eqinvestors.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reducing global inequalities in access to basic services

The African continent is lagging behind other continents in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, especially in making progress on extending basic services to the most vulnerable populations. Key enablers such as financial inclusion, access to education and basic health and sanitation facilities are needed to accelerate progress towards long-term poverty reduction. Multilateral development banks play an important role in providing low-interest lending to projects with specified positive social outcomes, which would otherwise not be financed as readily by national governments.

FUND IN FOCUS

Threadneedle UK Social bond fund



The African Development Bank social bond received investment from the international exposure of the Threadneedle UK Social Bond fund, with about 12 % of the current fund invested in supra-national social development projects targeted at the most vulnerable. These include social bonds from the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as collaborative healthcare access financing through the International Finance Facility for Immunisation.

EXAMPLE HOLDING

African Development Bank



The African Development Bank (AfDB) is a multilateral bank investing to accelerate a variety of sustainable development outcomes in its (primarily Sub-Saharan) African member states. The Social Bond programme has opened the doors for private investors to contribute capital to proven development projects, including extending affordable basic infrastructure to the underserved, food security and education programmes. Similar bond raisings by AfDB in the past year have helped provide 8.3 million people with access to water and sanitation, created 1.5 million new jobs and gave 210,000 entrepreneurs access to financial services (2017).



Next steps:

You can download a Positive Impact Portfolio brochure, view factsheets and invest online via the EQ website. Please get in touch for further information:



eqinvestors.co.uk

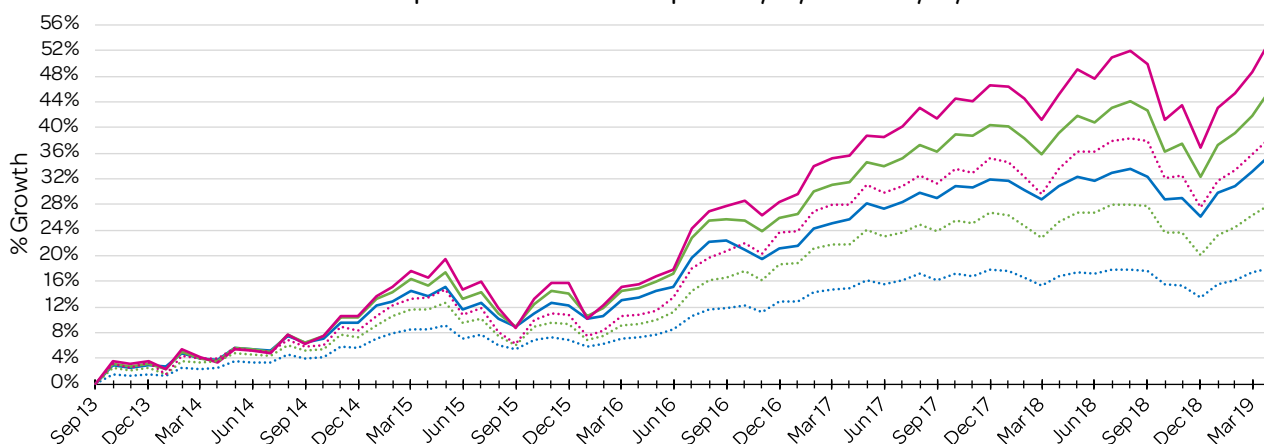


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Cumulative performance since inception 30/09/2013 to 30/04/2019



Annual performance	May 18 - Apr 19	May 17 - Apr 18	May 16 - Apr 17	May 15 - Apr 16	May 14 - Apr 15
Positive Impact Cautious	3.56%	4.03%	10.82%	-0.09%	9.45%
ARC Cautious *	1.16%	1.60%	7.16%	-1.12%	5.69%
Positive Impact Balanced	4.88%	5.71%	14.45%	-0.42%	11.44%
ARC Balanced *	2.06%	2.83%	11.43%	-1.99%	7.82%
Positive Impact Adventurous	5.65%	7.05%	17.35%	-1.01%	12.99%
ARC Steady Growth *	3.59%	4.39%	15.58%	-2.42%	9.10%

Risk warning

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and investors may get back less than they originally invested. The Positive Impact Portfolios are available in seven different risk profiles, of which three are shown here. Inception dates may vary; please see factsheets for full details.

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