

NORTHERN FUNDS

MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY (NMEDX)

As of 03/31/19

FUND COMMENTARY

During the first quarter, external emerging markets debt generated a return of 6.95% as measured by the J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified. This was primarily driven on a regional basis by Africa and Latin America, which returned 9.61% and 8.48%. Out of the 73 countries in the Index for the full quarter, only two produced negative total returns. The top performers for the quarter, on a total return basis, were Venezuela (30.28%), Ecuador (15.35%) and Kenya (14.47%). Local markets returned 2.92% for the quarter as measured by the J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets Global Diversified. Despite overall positive performance, the local Index lagged the broader emerging markets debt market due to Argentina and Turkey which both produced negative returns of -10.51% and -10.20%, respectively. The largest positive contributors to the local Index were Russia (9.40%), Philippines (7.56%) and Mexico (6.79%).

The Fund underperformed its blended benchmark for the quarter with a return of 4.39% compared to 4.93%, respectively. During the quarter, underperformance was primarily driven by sub-adviser Global Evolution. As external debt outperformed local debt, their overweight position to local was a detractor. Country selection also was a negative contributor to performance. Ashmore performed well for the quarter, driven primarily by country selection which included long standing positions in the quarter's top-performing countries.

Please carefully read the summary prospectus or prospectus and consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of Northern Funds before investing. Call 800-595-9111 to obtain a summary prospectus or prospectus, which contains this and other information about the funds.

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 (NMEDX)

| Performance as of 03/31/19 | | | | Annualized Returns | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| FUND | QTR | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | Since Inception* | Gross Expense Ratio | Net Expense Ratio |
| Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity | 4.39% | 4.39% | -3.49% | 3.90% | 0.70% | N/A | 1.14% | 1.06% | 0.95% |
| 50% JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified and 50% JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified | 4.93% | 4.93% | -1.76% | 4.59% | 2.37% | N/A | 2.88% | | |

*Inception Date- 12/03/13

Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown here. Performance data current to the most recent month end is available by calling 800-595-9111.

The Gross and Net Expense Ratios are as of the most recent prospectus. The Net Expense Ratio includes contractual expense reimbursements that, if not extended, will end on July 31, 2019.

Not FDIC insured | May lose value | No bank guarantee

Please remember that all investments carry some level of risk, including the potential loss of principal invested. They do not typically grow at an even rate of return and may experience negative growth. As with any type of portfolio structuring, attempting to reduce risk and increase return could, at certain times, unintentionally reduce returns.

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