

Fund managers: Rory Kutisker-Jacobson, Varshan Maharaj Fund inception date: 3 April 2017 Registration number: 51626

# Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in a focused portfolio of Frontier Market Equities. The Fund price is reported in US dollars, but the underlying holdings are denominated in various currencies. Returns are likely to be volatile.

Classification: Frontier Markets - Equity

# Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to outperform Frontier Markets over the long term without taking on greater risk of loss. The Fund's benchmark is the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets (FEM) Index. The Fund does not seek to mirror the benchmark but instead may deviate meaningfully from this performance benchmark in pursuit of superior returns. To the extent that its investments differ from those in the benchmark, the Fund faces the risk of underperforming the benchmark.

# **Frontier Market Equities**

There are numerous risks involved in investing in Frontier Market Equities. These risks may be significantly higher than in more developed markets and may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Individual countries may impose capital controls preventing the repatriation of foreign currency
- Returns are expected to be more volatile, and the average drawdown may be higher, than in more developed markets
- Low liquidity whereby subscriptions into the Fund may have to be phased in, and redemptions from the Fund may be limited per dealing day
- Market prices may not accurately reflect the fair value of a Fund asset and fair value pricing may be used

There is no assurance that the investment approach of the Fund will be successful or that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

See the "Important information for investors" section for more information.

# How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

We invest in equities that we believe offer superior fundamental value while taking into account risk and return. We research companies and assess their intrinsic value based on long-term fundamentals; we then invest in businesses where our assessment of intrinsic value exceeds the share price by a margin of safety. This approach allows us to identify shares that may be out of favour with the market because of poor near-term prospects, but offer good value over the long term. The Fund's holdings will deviate meaningfully from those in the index both in terms of individual holdings and sector exposure.

#### Suitable for those investors who

- Seek exposure to Frontier Market Equities
- Are comfortable with above-average stock market and currency fluctuations
- Are prepared to take on the risk of capital loss.
- Have a minimum investment horizon of five years

#### Fund information on 30 June 2025

Fund currency	US\$
Fund size	US\$1152m
Number of shares	4 509 190
Price (net asset value per share)	US\$216.18
Number of share holdings	37
Dealing day	Weekly (Thursday)
Class	A
Class inception date	3 April 2017

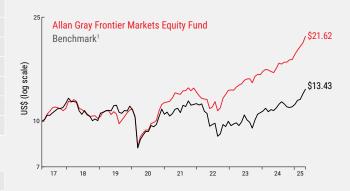
### Minimum investment amounts

Minimum initial investment	US\$50 000
Minimum subsequent investment	US\$1 000

- MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index (source: MSCI), performance as calculated by Allan Gray. Calculation based on the latest available data as supplied by third parties.
- Maximum percentage decline over any period calculated from monthly returns. The maximum drawdown occurred from 31 March 2018 to 31 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 31 January 2018 to 31 March 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
- 3. The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- The standard deviation of the Fund's monthly return. This
  is a measure of how much an investment's return varies
  from its average over time.
- 5. This is the highest or lowest rolling 12-month return the Fund has experienced since inception. The Fund's highest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2021 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2021. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from the Allan Gray Service Team on request.

# Performance in US\$ net of all fees and expenses

Value of US\$10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



% Returns	Fund	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>
Cumulative:		
Since inception (3 April 2017)	116.2	34.3
Annualised:		
Since inception (3 April 2017)	9.8	3.6
Latest 5 years	18.5	8.0
Latest 3 years	24.5	11.9
Latest 2 years	24.1	16.0
Latest 1 year	39.3	21.6
Year-to-date (not annualised)	24.0	18.3
Risk measures (since inception. based on month-end prices)		
Maximum drawdown <sup>2</sup>	-34.9	-36.3
Percentage positive months <sup>3</sup>	64.6	59.6
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>4</sup>	14.7	16.1
Highest annual return⁵	51.4	33.6
Lowest annual return <sup>5</sup>	-27.8	-28.6

Relative to benchmark return required to reach high watermark: 0.1%.



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# Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund aims to outperform Frontier Markets over the long term without taking on greater risk of loss. The Fund may experience periods of underperformance in pursuit of this objective. Since inception, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The maximum drawdown and lowest annual return numbers in the "Performance in US\$ net of all fees and expenses" table show that the Fund has not experienced more downside than its benchmark in periods of negative market returns. We believe our philosophy of buying undervalued equities should generate positive absolute returns over time.

## Subscription and redemption charge

Investors will be charged 0.5% when subscribing for Fund shares and 0.5% when redeeming Fund shares. These charges are paid into the Fund to offset the costs associated with the transactions that are borne by the Fund. Allan Gray Bermuda Limited (the "Investment Manager") may waive these charges at its discretion, for example in the case of significant offsetting between subscriptions and redemptions.

# Annual management fee

The management fee consists of a base fee of 1% and a performance component. The fee rate is calculated weekly by comparing the Fund's total performance for the week, after the base fee is deducted, to that of the benchmark.

Fee for performance equal to the Fund's benchmark: 1.00% p.a.

For each percentage point above or below the benchmark we add or deduct 0.2%. This means that Allan Gray shares in approximately 20% of the performance relative to the benchmark. The fee can decrease to a minimum of 0%. If the fee would have been negative, the negative fee will be carried forward to reduce the next week's fee (and all subsequent weeks until the underperformance is recovered).

## Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The annual management fee charged is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one- and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses, the TER should not be deducted from the published returns (refer to page 4 for further information). Transaction costs are disclosed separately.

# Country of listing on 30 June 20256

Country	% of equities	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>
United Kingdom	24.7	0.0
Philippines	19.5	17.4
Kazakhstan	15.7	4.3
Vietnam	8.7	15.5
Nigeria	6.4	0.0
Bangladesh	5.5	1.0
Sri Lanka	5.0	0.7
Egypt	4.9	2.4
Australia	2.2	0.0
Argentina	2.1	0.0
United States	1.8	3.8
Slovenia	1.2	4.6
Pakistan	0.7	3.1
Hong Kong	0.6	0.0
Kenya	0.5	2.1
Kuwait	0.4	0.0
Peru	0.0	11.5
Morocco	0.0	9.7
Romania	0.0	7.4
Colombia	0.0	4.5
Other	0.0	12.0
Total (%) <sup>7</sup>	100.0	100.0

- The listing may not represent the geographical location of the company's operations. The fund invests based on the primary place of operation, not listing.
- 7. There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

Note: There are  $\sim\!32$  countries in the benchmark, therefore countries not in the Fund may be shown as "Other" as the last balancing item for the benchmark.

# Sector allocation on 30 June 2025

Sector	% of equities	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>
Financials	44.3	41.8
Consumer Staples	30.2	4.2
Basic Materials	10.0	8.9
Health Care	5.4	4.1
Consumer Discretionary	4.9	4.2
Industrials	2.9	10.4
Energy	2.4	5.2
Telecommunications	0.0	5.0
Utilities	0.0	5.2
Technology	0.0	0.3
Real Estate	0.0	10.6
Total (%) <sup>7</sup>	100.0	100.0

# Asset allocation on 30 June 2025

Asset class	Total
Net equities	92.5
Bonds	6.7
Money market and bank deposits	0.9
Total (%) <sup>7</sup>	100.0

# Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 31 March 2025	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	2.73	3.92
Fee for benchmark performance	1.00	1.00
Performance fees	1.57	2.76
Custody fees	0.10	0.10
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.06	0.06
Transaction costs	0.05	0.04
Total investment charge	2.78	3.96

# **Allan Gray Frontier Markets Equity Fund**

**ALLANGRAY** 

**Fund managers:** Rory Kutisker-Jacobson, Varshan Maharaj **Fund inception date:** 3 April 2017 **Registration number:** 51626

30 June 2025

For the first six months of 2025, the Fund returned 24.0% in US dollars against the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index (FEM Index) US dollar return of 18.3%.

Georgian shares, namely TBC Bank, Lion Finance Group (historically called Bank of Georgia) and Georgia Capital, as well as Kazakhstan's Halyk Bank, remain major contributors to overall year-to-date performance. Over one year, each of the Georgian stocks is up over 90% in US dollars, including dividends, while Halyk's GDR (global depositary receipt) has returned north of 40%. We continue to see significant value in these counters as they continue to trade at low multiples, but we have been trimming our positions into this share strength. Over the last year, we have reduced our holdings in the Georgian names by over 20%. With Halyk, we have received dividends greater than 12% of the share price, which we have invested elsewhere, and we have actively reduced our position by over 7%.

Much of the proceeds from the sale of these assets and dividends received have been invested in Vietnam. A long time darling of frontier investors, Vietnam has a lot of attractive qualities. It has a large, young, productive population of over 100 million people, is one of the fastest-growing countries over the last decade, is strategically located near a major market like China, and has a rapidly expanding middle class. This is, however, not a secret, and for much of the history of the Frontier Markets Equity Fund, this "potential" was more than reflected in share prices, with Vietnamese stocks trading at a significant premium to frontier market peers.

In recent years, this "darling" tag has been somewhat tarnished, as the country has grappled with emerging from COVID-19, multiple corruption scandals (notably in the banking and real estate sectors), a potential middle-income trap and getting caught in the crosshairs of US-China trade relations. As a result, valuations in Vietnam are now much more reasonable than when we first launched the Fund in April 2017, and while we are still materially underweight, we are capitalising on the reduced investor sentiment to build positions in high-quality domestic businesses at reasonable prices.

Two such companies we are finding attractive are Mobile World and Masan Group.

#### Mobile World

Mobile World is a domestic, consumer-focused retail business. The original business specialised in the modernisation of retailing computers, phones, electronics, related accessories and household appliances, where they had incredible success in their early years, and has grown to become the dominant domestic retailer of such items. In 2015, they expanded into formal grocery retail with the launch of Bach Hoa Xanh (BHX), looking to capitalise on Vietnam's underdeveloped modern grocery market, as wet markets still dominate.

While BHX has expanded rapidly and grown topline revenue, it has struggled to achieve consistent profitability. Combined with a slowdown and greater competition in the original electronics and appliances businesses, the share has derated materially. Over three years, the share price is down 18% in US dollars. The recent headwinds and reduced sentiment have created an opportunity for us to build a position at a reasonable price.

At less than 15%, modern grocery retail penetration in Vietnam remains incredibly low. Of the major competitors in the market, with over 2 100 stores, BHX has established itself as one of the larger competitors in the market with an attractive offering, particularly in the fresh product space. If Vietnam follows a similar trajectory to other Southeast Asian markets and BHX maintains or grows its market share in modern grocery retail, the upside could be huge. Notably, at today's share price, one is no longer paying a high multiple for this upside optionality.

#### Masan Group

One of the other major competitors in modern grocery retail is WinCommerce (WinMart, WinMart+ and WiN stores), now owned by Masan Group. Where BHX has chosen to focus on their fresh offering, WinCommerce stores are typically smaller and more similar to traditional convenience stores (think 7-Eleven). WinCommerce has a nationwide presence, whereas BHX is more focused on the south of the country. Despite WinCommerce having over 4 000 stores, the absolute revenue compared to BHX is lower. Predicting winners at such an early stage of the retail modernisation journey is difficult, but we believe both WinCommerce and BHX are well placed to emerge as potential victors, and there is ample space for more than one market participant to succeed.

For Masan Group, it is also important to note that WinCommerce is just one of its businesses. It also has a 20% stake in Techcombank, one of Vietnam's largest privately owned banks; a considerable fast-moving consumer goods business, with popular domestic fish sauce and instant noodle brands; a domestic meat-processing and packaging company; Phuc Long Heritage, a nationwide modern coffee retail chain that is similar in style to Starbucks; and a legacy tungsten business. The share price of Masan Group is down almost 40% in US dollars over the past three years, and we believe it now trades at a substantial discount to the sum of its parts.

The current environment, characterised by geopolitical uncertainty and fluctuating sentiment, reinforces the importance of our investment philosophy and long-term approach. Rather than being swayed by short-term noise, we remain focused on identifying high-quality businesses trading at a material discount to our estimate of intrinsic value. We believe this approach gives us the best chance of delivering superior returns over time, even if it occasionally leads us to swim against the tide.

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

Fund manager quarterly commentary as at 30 June 2025



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#### Definitions

Frontier Markets means markets included in the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets (FEM) Index and Beyond Frontier markets. Beyond Frontier markets are markets not included in developed, emerging or frontier indices. Frontier Market Equities means equity in companies domiciled, geographically located or with significant business interests in Frontier Markets, regardless of the location of the stock exchange listing.

#### Information and content

The information in and content of this publication are provided by Allan Gray as general information about the Fund. Allan Gray does not guarantee the suitability or potential value of any information or particular investment source. The information provided is not intended to, nor does it constitute financial, tax, legal, investment or other advice. Before making any decision or taking any action regarding your finances, you should consult a qualified financial adviser. Nothing contained in this publication constitutes a solicitation, recommendation, endorsement or offer by Allan Gray; it is merely an invitation to do business. Allan Gray has taken and will continue to take care that all information provided, in so far as this is under its control, is true and correct. However, Allan Gray shall not be responsible for and therefore disclaims any liability for any loss, liability, damage (whether direct or consequential) or expense of any nature whatsoever which may be suffered as a result of, or which may be attributable, directly or indirectly, to the use of or reliance on any information provided. While the Fund has been approved to market its shares to the public in Botswana by the Regulatory Authority of Botswana, the undertaking is not supervised or licensed in Botswana. The Fund is incorporated and registered under the laws of Bermuda and is supervised by the Bermuda Monetary Authority. The primary custodian of the Fund is Citibank N.A., New York Offices. The custodian can be contacted at 390 Greenwich Street, New York. New York, 10012, USA. Allan Gray Bermuda Limited (the "Investment Manager") is registered with the Bermuda Monetary Authority as a Class B Registered Person and authorised to conduct investment business under the Investment Business Act. Allan Gray Bermuda Limited has appointed Allan Gray Unit Trust Management (RF) Proprietary Limited (the "Representative") as its representative for the purpose of approval in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act 45 of 2002. The Representative is incorporated under the laws of South Africa and is supervised by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA). The Fund may be closed to new investments at any time to be managed according to its mandate. Shares in the Fund are traded at ruling prices and the Fund can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. The Fund may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity. Investments in the Fund are made according to the terms and conditions and subject to the restrictions set out in the prospectus. The offering of shares in the Fund may be restricted in certain jurisdictions. Please contact the Allan Gray service team to confirm if there are any restrictions that apply to you.

#### Performance

Collective investment schemes (unit trusts or mutual funds) are generally medium- to long-term investments. Where annualised performance is mentioned, this refers to the average return per year over the period. The value of shares or the investment may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying international investments to go up or down. Neither the Investment Manager, the Fund nor the Representative provides any guarantee regarding the capital or the performance of the Fund. Performance figures are provided by the Investment Manager and are for lump sum investments with income distributions reinvested. The performance graph is for illustrative purposes only. Actual investor performance may differ as a result of the investment date, the date of reinvestment and applicable taxes.

#### MSCI Index

Source: MSCI. MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any MSCI data contained herein. The MSCI data may not be further redistributed or used as a basis for other indexes or any securities or financial products. This report is not approved, endorsed, reviewed or produced by MSCI. None of the MSCI data is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such.

#### Share price

Share prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the Fund, including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the Fund divided by the number of shares in issue. Forward pricing is used. The weekly price of the Fund is normally calculated each Friday. Purchase requests must be received by the Registrar of the Fund by 17:00 South African time on that dealing day to receive that week's price. Redemption requests must be received by the Registrar of the Fund by 17:00 South African time on the particular dealing day on which shares are to be redeemed to receive that week's price. Share prices are available on www.allangray.co.za.

#### Fees and charges

Permissible deductions from the Fund may include management fees, brokerage, securities transfer tax, auditor's fees, bank charges and custody fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Representative.

#### Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The TER is the annualised percentage of the Fund's average assets under management that has been used to pay the Fund's actual expenses over the past one- and three-year periods. The TER includes the annual management fees that have been charged (both the fee at benchmark and any performance component charged) and other expenses like audit fees. Transaction costs (including brokerage, securities transfer tax and investor protection levies where applicable) are shown separately. Transaction costs are necessary costs in administering the Fund and impact Fund returns. They should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time, including market returns, the type of fund, the investment decisions of the Investment Manager and the TER. Since Fund returns are quoted after the deduction of these expenses, the TER and transaction costs should not be deducted again from published returns. As collective investment scheme expenses vary, the current TER cannot be used as an indication of future TERs. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Instead, when investing, the investment objective of the Fund should be aligned with the investor's objective and compared against the performance of the Fund. The TER and other funds' TERs should then be used to evaluate whether the Fund performance offers value for money. The sum of the TER and transaction costs is shown as the total investment charge (TIC).

#### Frontier markets

There are significant risks involved in investing in shares listed in the Fund's universe of emerging and developing countries, including liquidity risks, sometimes aggravated by rapid and large outflows of "hot money" and capital flight, concentration risk, currency risks, political and social instability, the possibility of expropriation, confiscatory taxation or nationalisation of assets and the establishment of foreign exchange controls which may include the suspension of the ability to transfer currency from a given country. Frontier market countries have varying laws and regulations and, in some, foreign investment is controlled or restricted in varying degrees.

#### Capacity

The Fund currently has limited capacity. The Investment Manager may, at its discretion, refuse a subscription or phase a subscription into the Fund over a number of dealing days. Total investor redemptions may be limited to US\$5m or 2.5% of the Fund (whichever is less) per dealing day. The Investment Manager retains the right to distribute all or part of any redemption proceeds in specie (in kind).

#### Fair value pricing

The board of directors of the Fund (the "Board") may fair value the Fund's assets in accordance with the Board's fair value pricing policies if: 1) the closing market quotations or or official closing prices are not readily available or do not accurately reflect the fair value of a Fund asset; or 2) the value of a Fund asset has been materially affected by events occurring before the Fund's pricing time but after the close of the exchange or market on which the asset is principally traded. The Board delegates the responsibility for fair value pricing decisions to a valuation committee of the Investment Manager.

#### Contractual risk

The Fund can use derivatives to manage its exposure to stock markets, currencies and/or interest rates and this exposes the Fund to contractual risk. Contractual risk includes the risk that a counterparty will not settle a transaction according to its terms and conditions because of a dispute over the terms of the contract (whether or not bona fide) or because of a credit or liquidity problem, causing the Fund to suffer a loss. Such contract counterparty risk is accentuated for contracts with longer maturities where events may intervene to prevent settlement, or where the Fund has concentrated its transactions with a single or small group of counterparties.

#### Derivatives

Borrowing, leveraging and trading securities on margin will result in interest charges and, depending on the amount of trading activity, such charges could be substantial. The low margin deposits normally required in futures and forward trading used by the Fund permit a high degree of leverage; accordingly, a relatively small price movement in a futures or forward contract may result in immediate and substantial losses to the investor. Price movements of forward contracts and other derivative contracts in which the assets of the Fund may be invested are highly volatile and are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programmes and policies of governments, and national and international political and economic events and policies. Forward contracts are not traded on exchanges and are not standardised; rather, banks and dealers act as principals in these markets, negotiating each transaction on an individual basis. Trading in forward contracts is substantially unregulated and there is no limitation on daily price movements.

#### Operating expense cap

The Investment Manager has agreed with the Fund that, except for specified exclusions, operating expenses attributable to the Fund will be capped at a rate of 0.15% per annum during the Fund's financial year. The cap will be automatically extended for further successive one-year periods, unless the Investment Manager notifies the Fund that the cap will not continue at least three months prior to the expiry of the term, as extended. The Investment Manager will meet expenses incurred in excess of such cap and will not seek reimbursement from the Fund. The operating expenses that are capped are all expenses excluding the fees of the Investment Manager, the cost of buying and selling assets and custody fees.

# Important information for investors

#### Need more information?

You can obtain additional information about the Fund, including copies of the prospectus, application forms and the annual report, free of charge, by contacting the Allan Gray service team, at 0860 000 654 or +27 (0)21 415 2301 or by email at allangraybermuda@allangray.com.