

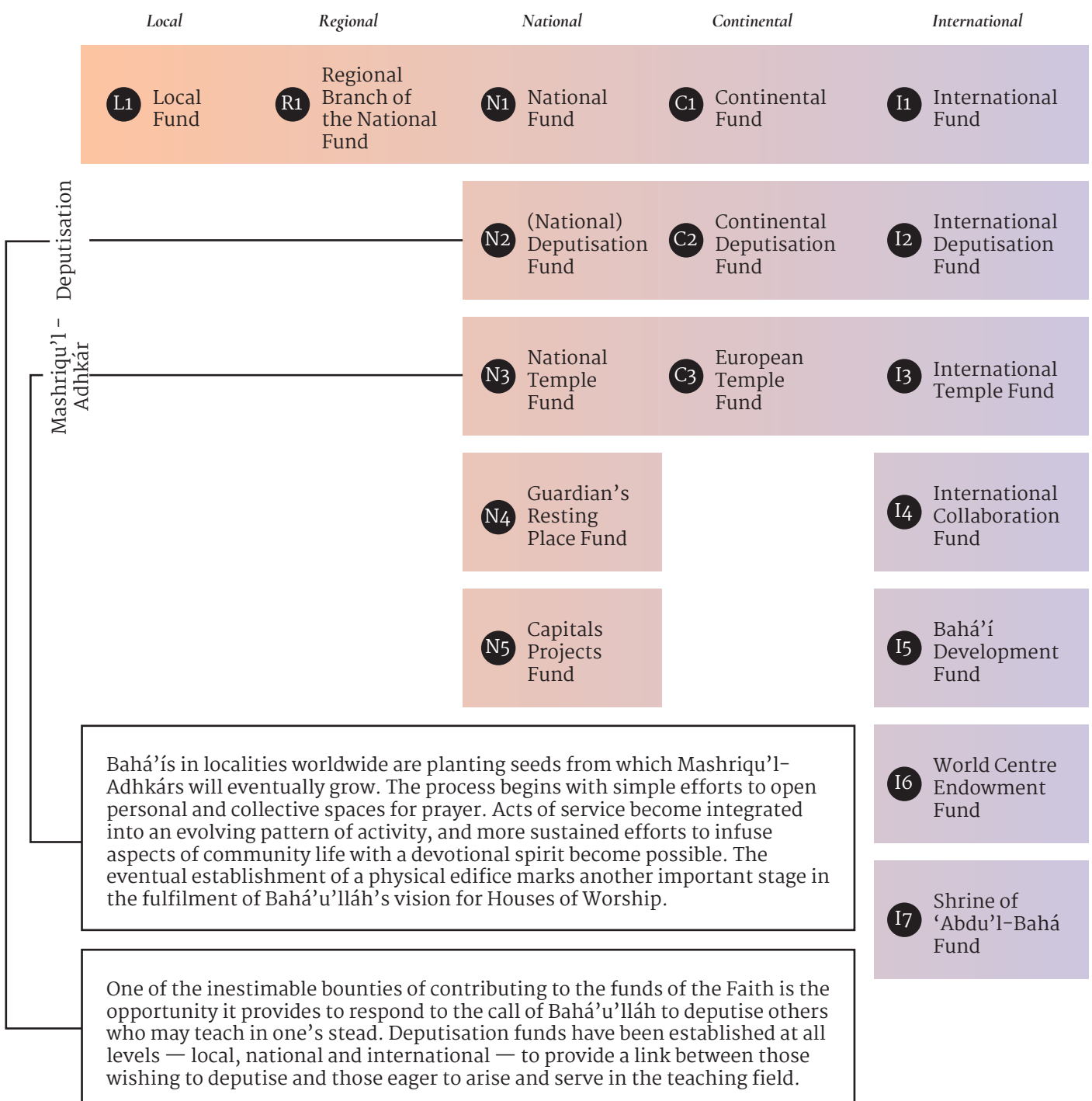
Funds of the Bahá'í Faith

In the world that Bahá'u'lláh has envisaged, the planet's resources will be used to bring about spiritual and material prosperity for the entire human race. Shoghi Effendi has written that "the progress and execution of spiritual activities" is "conditioned upon material means".

Within the Bahá'í community, funds are established at the local, national, continental and international levels to which its members may alone contribute, allowing the Bahá'í community both to sustain its activity and to channel financial resources in ways that promote the well-being of humanity.

The administration of these funds is entrusted to the care of Bahá'í institutions at each level, which are responsible for making decisions about allocating resources on behalf of the community. The act of contributing does not, of course, grant an individual the prerogative to direct the specific way in which the funds are expended. However, any Bahá'í may earmark their donation for a named geographical region or for a particular area of activity to be used at the institutions' discretion.

The following non-exhaustive list briefly overviews different types of Funds Bahá'í individuals and institutions can contribute to in the United Kingdom.



- L1 The Local Bahá'í Fund, placed under the exclusive control of the Local Spiritual Assembly for the express purpose of promoting the interests of the Cause throughout that locality. Shoghi Effendi states, "It is the sacred obligation of every conscientious and faithful servant of Bahá'u'lláh who desires to see His Cause advance, to contribute freely and generously for the increase of that fund..."¹
- R1 The regional branch of the National Fund directly supports the four Regional Bahá'í Councils in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Regional Bahá'í Councils focus on the support of the teaching work in each region, primarily through development of Regional Training Institutes and clusters, working with Local Spiritual Assemblies, and executing the plans of the National Spiritual Assembly.
- N1 The National Bahá'í Fund is referred to by Shoghi Effendi as "the bedrock upon which all the activities of the Cause ultimately rest"² as it supports the administration and expansion of the Faith internationally, nationally, at the regional level, and at the cluster level.
- N2 Financial support for full and part-time staff who are advancing the teaching work within the U.K..."Whoso is worthy of so high a calling, let him arise and promote it. Whoso is unable, it is his duty to appoint him who will, in his stead, proclaim this Revelation".
- N3 The National Assembly has created this fund for the purchase of land and construction of a national Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in London.
- N4 Supports the upkeep and maintenance of The Resting Place of the Guardian in London.
- N5 This fund has been created to support specific projects within the United Kingdom, such as the refurbishment at Royal York Crescent, Bristol, where the Master stayed on two occasions.
- C1 In a message dated 6 April 1954, the Guardian called for the initiation of five Continental Bahá'í Funds. These Funds, now well established, support the protection and expansion of the Faith in each continent and subsidise the travels and administrative expenses of the Continental Boards of Counselors, the Auxiliary Boards and their assistants.
- C2 In its 1996 Ridván message, the Universal House of Justice stated that deputising a teacher serving a training institute is one means of fulfilling the responsibility to teach. It opened up the possibility of contributing through the Continental Deputisation Fund. While the friends can channel deputisation for a training institute teacher through any convenient Fund, the emphasis on the Continental Fund is significant since the Counsellors can identify institutes needing such support.
- C3 The European Temple Fund supports the upkeep and maintenance of the Mother Temple of Europe at Langenhain, Germany, which was dedicated in July 1964.
- I1 The International Bahá'í Fund directly supports the Universal House of Justice and, as Shoghi Effendi stated, "participation of individual believers, through contributions directly transmitted to the Holy Land are imperative..."³ This fund is utilised by the Universal House of Justice to support the functioning of Institutions on the Arc of Mount Carmel and to support the steady development of National Assemblies and Bahá'í activities around the world.
- I2 The International Deputisation Fund is administered by the International Teaching Centre, which receives recommendations from the Continental Counsellors with respect to its allocation.
- I3 The International Temples Fund was established by the Universal House of Justice in 2012 to support the construction of national and local Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs around the world.
- I4 The National Spiritual Assembly of the United Kingdom is one of 57 National Assemblies selected by the Universal House of Justice to participate in the international financial collaboration programme. This means the National Assembly is entrusted, at the direction of the House of Justice, to periodically assist its sister National Assemblies around the world with financial undertakings. The National Assembly decided to pledge from this community a total of £648,000 for the programme over the nine years of the Plan.
- I5 The Bahá'í Development Fund was established to support the Bahá'í International Development Organization at the World Center, charged with the responsibility for the process of learning in the Bahá'í world about relief, reconstruction, and associated development efforts.
- I6 The World Centre Endowment Fund in the words of the Universal House of Justice, is "for the preservation, upkeep, and security of the edifices and precincts of the Spiritual and Administrative Centers of the Faith."⁴
- I7 The Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá Fund was announced by the Universal House of Justice in its Ridván 2019 message noting that the time has come for a Shrine to be erected, of a character be fitting the unique station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá which will "forever embosom those sacred remains."

¹ 12 March 1923 From a letter of the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada: Bahá'í Administration, pp. 41-42

² 17 July 1937 to a National Spiritual Assembly, published in Dawn of a New Day, p. 68

³ 25 April 1951, Messages to the Baha'i World 1950-1957, p. 13-14

⁴ 12 November 2001, The Universal House of Justice, International Endowment Fund