



Getting Started

Starting a Cargo of Dreams (CoD) project is an exciting and fruitful adventure, and keeping your project running smoothly requires careful planning and execution. Below are different steps you can take to ensure your project is successful.

- 1 Ask yourself why you want to do a project and what you think will be the outcome for those involved at the donor end.**
Start by answering the two questions listed above. This will help us support you and customize the project so that we accomplish your goals as well as those of the intended recipient. Remember, 50% of the project is focused on the donor's goals and 50% on the recipient's goals – both are *equally* important.

We will send you a DVD package that shows the overview of the projects, and we will discuss with you how a Cargo of Dreams project can accomplish both sets of goals.

- 2 Check out the CoD website.**
Go to our website, www.cargoofdreams.org, and look over the information provided there, especially the FAQ section. This will give you a good understanding of the process and answer many questions you may have.

- 3 Get your project team established.**
Proper planning is crucial to a successful project. You will need to select teams and their leaders in a way that capitalizes on each person's gifts and talents. CoD will assign a representative to support you or help you get the right support you need.

See our Project Team Members document for more information.

- 4 Select your potential recipient community and determine the project scope.**
You can either select from a CoD pre-qualified list of potential recipient partners or suggest a recipient with whom you have an existing relationship.

If you decide to select a recipient from the CoD list, we will help you choose a project that will align with your goals and the resources you have available. We will go over your choices of recipient countries, different types of building applications, and also the size of facility needed.

If you have an existing recipient in mind, we will determine the suitability of placing a container at their site. (This can be a detailed process that addresses import customs clearance and other specific project design implications.)

- 5 Sign a donor-partner commitment form.**
We provide you with a drafted commitment form that we can customize as needed to reflect our mutual expectations.

- 6 Raise your seed capital.**
To get your project started, you need \$4,000 to \$5,500 in seed capital, with \$5,000+ being ideal. Keep in mind, once the container arrives, it will generate a lot of excitement and opportunities for



fundraising. CoD will also provide you with marketing materials and unique tools to help you secure these funds.

7 Choose the site where the remodeling will be done.

The remodeling site is selected based on practical site aspects, intended exposure to strangers passing by and accessibility. Your CoD representative will help you choose the best location.

8 Thoroughly read the provided Cargo of Dreams Manual to understand the process and all the various dimensions of the project.

We provide you with a Cargo of Dreams Manual package – this package includes everything you need to know in order to successfully complete the project.

The Manual package consists of three major sections:

1. Architectural drawings and renderings that include:

- Everything you need to visually convey the vision of the project
- Detailed blue prints

2. The Manual itself – a detailed, user-friendly document that includes pictures and step-by-step guidance on:

- Your team structure
- Volunteer involvement
- Construction details
- Logistics (from initial container purchase to arrival at final destination in recipient country)

3. Evangelism Companion Document – Practical and creative tools to intentionally use the unique opportunities this project creates to share the gospel of Jesus.

9 Determine your targeted time frames

After you have a thorough understanding of the various implications of participating in a project, your CoD representative will go over the time frames, both those applicable to the donor country as well as those in the recipient country.

Last but not least, remember that each project is unique and the environment will be ever-changing. Your highs will be phenomenally high, and the lows will become a time of character-building, but the journey...that will be awesome! Together we will accomplish abundantly more than we could ever have desired, hoped or dreamed.