



Cargo of Dreams Cost Considerations

As with any charitable organization, when you start promoting Cargo of Dreams (CoD), you will constantly be asked, “How much will it cost?”

CoD is a unique organization in that rather than sending just a select few overseas, we bring the mission trip to your neighborhood, allowing everyone to participate. And because it is a unique organization, there are unique costs involved – but there are also plenty of ways to raise funds for your project that are fun, different, and involve the entire community.

Costs

The first things to consider are the two main factors that determine the cost:

1. **The scope of the project**

- Floor plan – This can be as basic as a single container or be comprised of multiple containers. If multiple containers, it may be a combination of containers shipped from the donor as well as containers bought in the recipient country.
- Building application (school, clinic, etc)
- Construction considerations (e.g., grading, utility availability and connections, and more)

2. **Logistics costs**

- Distances to and from harbors
- Customs
- Storage
- Off-loading equipment needed
- General road and related demographic conditions

Raising Funds

Once you determine the cost of your project, you can focus on obtaining the money needed. There are three main options for raising funds for a CoD project:

1. **Project Package donations:** A project package is a Gift in Kind item or volunteer activity with an attached cash donation that helps fund the overall budget. For more information, see below.
2. **Cash donations:** Used for the purchase of containers, transportation costs, and CoD Program Development Fund contributions.
3. **Gift in Kind donations (GIK):** Used for construction items (framing, flooring, electrical, plumbing, and roofing), furnishings, program supplies, and anything else you can expect to find in the facility once completed.



About Project Packages

Project packages are one of the most important aspects of your CoD project. They are the main way to get the community involved and raise money for your project. Project packages give people of all ages, groups and backgrounds the opportunity to be involved hands-on with international outreach, helping them live beyond themselves and connect with those in need across the world. Each group or individual adopts a package that is best suited for their unique gifts, or has one created for them, and is able to contribute in their own unique way.

After you choose your CoD recipient location and project, you will need to create different project packages specific to your project. For example, if you are building a school, you might create a “paper supplies” package, a “desk and chairs” package, a “musical instruments” package, or a package to paint a colorful mural for the building. Once you have created your project packages, determine the total amount of cash donations needed to fund the project and divide that amount among the individual packages, so that each project package will have a dollar amount attached to it. Whoever adopts these packages will be required to provide a donation equal to that dollar amount in addition to the specific supplies needed for that package. For example, if a group adopts the “desk and chairs” package, to which you’ve assigned a \$1,000 amount, the group will need to supply the desk and chairs as well as the \$1,000. This money will go toward shipping the desk and chairs and the overall budget. (NOTE: Once a package is adopted, the dollar amount is set in stone. Allowing exceptions will probably leave you with a shortage on your budget.)

Raising the funds needed for project packages can be fun and quite easy. For instance, if a school group of 15 children adopts a mural package for \$1,500, each child can be given the task of raising \$100. Breaking the total donation into smaller chunks creates easily attainable goals for the children – if each child finds just 10 people to each donate \$10, they will reach their goal in no time! And they become actively involved in sharing the gospel as they ask their neighbors and friends for donations.

CoD will provide a standard set of project packages to be used as a guide, but the possibilities are endless! Stretch your creative side to create project packages that will involve all ages and groups, allowing everyone to contribute. You can also see more ideas and samples of packages under the “Explore” tab at www.cargoofdreams.org.



General Budget Example

Keep in mind that a project-specific budget can only be determined when project scope is finalized.

Cash:

1. Purchase 40 ft container – \$3,500 each
This depends on market supply and demand as well as container requirements for CoD application.
2. Shipping per 40 ft container – \$10,000
Estimate from a California donor location to a final destination in South Africa – 60% is ocean freight and the rest is land transportation, crane hire, customs, etc.
3. Site preparation: TBD
Diversified range and usually covered by recipient partners as part of their “ownership.”
Each site requires a unique combination of activities needed to be done and some activities are
4. CoD program development contribution – \$3,500–\$5000

NOTE: Any of the above can become a project package, so if you know of a trucking company or a container supplier it will remove or minimize that cost.

Gifs in Kind:

1. Construction items (in order of typical dollar value)
 - Roofing – truss structure and roofing materials Note: Roofing is the biggest and often most challenging GIK to secure
 - Framing – including insulation and FRP panels
 - Plumbing – including fixtures
 - Cabinetry (if floor plan includes a kitchen)
 - Flooring – may or may not including areas other than actual container
 - Electrical
 - Painting
2. Facility furnishing – tables, chairs, shelves, etc.
3. Programmatic needs – educational toys, arts and crafts, Bible educational items, back packs, etc.
4. Outside playground – play equipment, basketball net, soccer goals, etc.

NOTE: The recipient leadership team is best suited to compile a list of the items they think will support their vision. CoD, based on past experiences, will provide a sample list of similar previous projects.