

# The Four Stages of Home-Start Development

Materials for New Countries

HSW

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## What it takes to develop Home-Start in a new country

There are four distinct stages in the Home-Start in a new country which are summarised below. If you are interested in starting Home-Start in a new country, Home-Start Worldwide will guide you through these stages and provide you with supportive material.

### Stage 1 - Expression of Interest



You have heard about Home-Start and are wondering whether it would be a good idea to start a scheme in your country. You will find extensive information on the Home-Start Worldwide website but you should also contact us directly so that we can give you more information about the practices and policies of Home-Start which you will need to comply with. It's important that you understand as much as possible about how Home-Start works and about our ethos before you make the decision to start the process of starting it in your country. We will also tell you about the help you can expect from Home-Start Worldwide. We will also willingly answer any additional questions as you proceed.

### Stage 2 - Exploratory Stage



The next stage involves exploring the needs of your local community and the various options available to you. It may help to form a 'steering committee' to help you with the planning and activities during these early stages. You should decide where to establish the first scheme, which families to serve, where you will recruit volunteers from, who will serve on the Board of Trustees or Management Committee and whether to operate as an independent scheme, a national body or work in partnership (or under the umbrella) of another organisation. You should also think about where to identify a qualified local coordinator. Home-Start Worldwide will ask to see the information gathered from this stage as it is a good opportunity to ask any further questions we might have, or provide further advice.

### Stage 3 - Organising Stage



If you decide to set up an independent Home-Start organization, you must now prepare the Constitution/Statutes and begin the process of registering as a non-profit organization as required by local law. You will also need to name a Management Committee or Board of Trustees. If a decision is taken to establish Home-Start in partnership with (or under the umbrella of) another NGO, it would be time to set up a Home-Start Advisory Committee. Home-Start Worldwide will advise on a structural plan or basis for working with Umbrella Organisations.

At this point, we suggest that a 'Business Plan' is prepared, to ensure the sustainability of the venture. This can be as simple or as complex as required. We also give you access to our Business Plan and Fundraising Guides. At this stage, we will also send a copy of our Quality Assurance Standards to which all Home-Starts worldwide are expected to adhere to and which constitute the core requirement of Home-Start Worldwide membership.

### Stage 4 - Induction and Training Stage



Induction of the Management or Advisory Committee and other key people to the Home-Start principles and practise is of course a necessary step. Home-Start Worldwide will secure that this takes place.

The next step is to select and train your first coordinator/s. Training for Coordinators will be arranged with the assistance of Home-Start Worldwide. This may take place in your own country with the assistance of a more experienced Home-Start country, or in another experienced country if this is easier to organise. Where possible, Home-Start Worldwide would match the two countries in terms of geographical proximity and cultural background. If any costs are incurred, these would be absorbed by the new country.

The coordinator will then recruit, select and prepare the volunteers for home visits by taking them through the Home-Start Worldwide approved "Course of Preparation." Once the volunteers have completed the course, they can be matched with families who will visit them on a steady bases. Here is where the actual family support work starts!

