

Moving together: Preparing your family



If you are moving with your family, it is essential that you **get as much information as possible** about the new location to avoid unwelcomed surprises.

What does it look like?

What is the climate?

What is the culture like?

What are the laws and values?

Are there security issues?

Is there a suitable education system?

What is the housing situation?

What about food, entertainment?

You will also need to carefully consider your current situation.

If you own your home what will happen to it?

Can you ship your furniture?

And so on.

Once you have gathered as much information as you can about the new situation discuss it with your family members. Remember, **the more information everyone has, the easier it will be to integrate into the new situation**. The less informed any member of the family is, the greater the potential for unhappiness. So it is in everyone's best interest that all are well informed about what to expect. When you think you are ready, complete the evaluation below. The results may help you and your family make decisions that will work best for all of you and identify some actions that will make the experience easier to manage and ultimately more successful.

Instructions

On the **Family Readiness to Move Evaluation** below, rate each of the items very positive with that factor in your new location, -5 meaning you feel that factor is problematic in the new location and 0 meaning that you have no feelings one way or the other about that item. If you don't have any information about an item put a question mark (?) beside it. If an item does not apply put N/A in the rating column. At the end of the evaluation you can make a note of all those items with question marks. These are areas where you may want to gather more information.

It is recommended that the ratings be done after discussion as a family group.

Family Readiness to Move Evaluation

What do you, your partner and your family members absolutely need to have to be able to live comfortably and enjoy the experience? What can you all compromise on? What is not really important?

Rate the following items from -5 to 5 in terms of how important they are to you as a family. Indicate 0 if the item has no importance at all. Then rate them again according to their availability in the new country and total the two scores.

| Must-have factors | Rating 1 – Importance | Rating 2 - Availability |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| A – Personal Safety | A | A |
| B - Good education system | B | B |
| C – Good restaurants | C | C |
| D – Safe living conditions | D | D |
| E – Freedom of movement | E | E |
| F - Sports | F | F |
| G – Libraries, bookstores | G | G |
| H – Cultural activities | H | H |
| I – Friends of similar background | I | I |
| J – Own language | J | J |
| K – Practicing belief system/religion | K | K |
| Total score for must-haves (1 & 2) | | |

Factor Rating
Scale

- +5 Very positive: we all accept; have no problem with it
- 5 Very problematic: most of us/all of us do not accept this; we've got problems with this issue
- 0 Neutral – no impact: this is not an issue for us
- NA Not applicable: this doesn't apply to us
- ? Need more information: we don't know enough to answer this