

Recent events and developments

COVID-19 has inflicted a devastating toll to organizations' capacity to conduct international business. Although international mobility is still severely restricted, starting to draft a comprehensive business resumption plan - outlining the indicators, pre-requisites and conditions to restart international business - can help you to recover more quickly should government restrictions continue to ease.

Assessment

Business resumption planning is necessary for organizations to return to business after an emergency. COVID-19 has introduced unprecedented restrictions worldwide, hence intensifying the need for adaptive and innovative measures to fluctuating and unpredictable environments. It is the process of re-opening all the structural components and re-establishing a normalization of operandi. Business resumption planning further aims to institute preventive measures to make organizations more resilient to future incidents.

Impact

Business resumption planning is not solely focused on returning to 'normalization' and minimizing the impact of the emergency you recover from. It can also serve as a cornerstone to change the organizational structure in order to reduce the loss of personnel, assets, facility damage and prepare for future potential disruptions. Business resumption planning is thus an opportunity to ameliorate already existing strategies by coming up with more resilient policies and new ways forward.

Advice from Expat Preventive:

- Determine the need and feasibility of resuming international business and travel. This includes making an inventory of what project and programmes can (not) be carried out remotely and who is (non)-essential staff for these projects that warrant international travel.
- Establish health, economic, and security-related indicators to ascertain the right timing and sequencing international business and travel resumption.
- Update your Country Security Plans in order to provide a comprehensive risk assessment tailored down to the current COVID-19 crisis before returning to work:
 - Assess risks that the organization and its employees may face directly or indirectly (e.g. xenophobia; higher crime levels and civil unrest) due to COVID-19.
 - Determine whether your organizational strategy towards mitigating risks is still valid in the wake of the COVID-pandemic and requires updating.
 - Ensure Standard Operating Procedures are up-to-date and attuned to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Update your contingency plan (including actions on what happens if an employee develops symptoms).
- Ensure that the office space has been thoroughly secured and ready for return (e.g. location assessment, facilities management, physical security, asset protection, IT updates).
- Devise a policy on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and make sure these are adequately available and distributed throughout the organization. Do not only narrowly focus on COVID-19 but also ascertain the impact of staff contracting vector-borne diseases.
- Be aware of any immigration and government protocols. Check our partner organisation Safeture's new tool for up-to-date information on your countries of operation: <https://openupforbusiness.com/>

Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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We provide a wide range of services to prepare your organization and employees for situations like these. More information on our website: www.expatpreventive.com/en/

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