

How families can be better prepared



Embrace a dual strategy

One way to bridge a desire to keep the business in the family and let the next generation explore other opportunities, is to pursue a dual strategy while both sides decide what the long-term future should be – the current generation continues running the core business, while the next generation undertakes complementary ventures within it. This could involve setting up a new business division; devising new products and services; leading digitalisation drives; or diversifying into new regions.

Establishing a Single-Family Office

SFOs provide a sandbox for the next gen to build skills away from the direct family business where the costs and visibility of failure tend to be much higher. Equipping the next generation with the right financial education and decision-making skills can also begin at a young age and in tandem with formal education. Active involvement in family finance, mentorship programmes, financial literacy and corporate governance training all help to prepare and support the successor generation. It may even make them more likely to step into leadership roles within the family-owned business or its SFO.

78%

of entrepreneurs stated it is important to them to keep the business in the family and preserve it's legacy. 35%

suggest they do not have enough confidence in the next generation to take over the business. Running a business is never simple, and ensuring a smooth transition to the next generation adds further complexity. How can families navigate this complexity?



Family-owned business succession planning checklist



Open dialogue

- Hold regular family meetings to discuss succession and legacy
- Encourage honest sharing of aspirations, concerns, expectations and purpose



Formalise a plan

- Document clear roles, timelines, and training requirements
- Develop contingency strategies for unexpected changes



Seek external advice

- Consult legal, financial, and tax specialists
- Engage independent advisors for objective guidance



Implement corporate governance

- Set up a family council, board or constitution with defined decision-making processes
- Schedule regular reviews and updates to keep the plan current



Educate the next generation

- Establish mentorship and formal training
- Provide hands-on experience and exposure to best practices



Honour the past and look to the future

- Preserve core values while exploring new ventures
- Support next-generation initiatives beyond the core business



Integrate philanthropy

- Consider establishing a family foundation or donor-advised fund
- Involve younger members in charitable projects to reinforce shared values

Through collaboration with the next generation, considering all available options, and developing a constantly evolving succession plan, both the business and family wealth can be better positioned for long-term success.

Find out more about planning for future success. Visit www.privatebanking.hsbc.com or contact your RM.



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