

Topic: Employment
(Church World Service/Overseas Processing Entities in Accra, Ghana, and Nairobi, Kenya)

Activity: Employment Dilemmas

Introduction	In this activity, refugees will explore changing jobs based on income and benefits.
Objective	Given limited information about a new job, participants will weigh the “pros” and “cons” of taking a new job and make a decision about that job. They will share their reasons for pursuing or not pursuing that job.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Situation cards (see examples below)
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Divide participants into six groups. Ask each group to select a leader.2. Explain the activity to participants and distribute the situation cards, one to each group.3. Participants will discuss the situation assigned to them and answer the questions.4. With the assistance of other group members, the leaders will present the situation and strategies to deal with the situation to the large group.
Variations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Trainers can read the situation cards to participants.2. Participants outside the group presenting can be asked to voice their own opinions to the presented situation.

Situation 1

You are an auto mechanic in your home country by profession, with a wife and two children. In the United States, you are working as a dishwasher, making \$7.50 per hour. This is a full-time job and has health insurance coverage for you and your family. The job offers you the possibility of a promotion.

You are offered a job as an auto mechanic trainee. You will make \$9.00 per hour. This would be full-time but would offer no health insurance coverage.

Which job should you take? Why?

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Situation 2

You are married with three children. You are working in a beauty salon three blocks from your apartment. Your husband is an electrician by trade but is unemployed. He has been offered a job in another state. You could also work in a beauty salon there. Your children have made a lot of friends in your community, though, and are doing very well in their new school. However, your paycheck is not enough to support you without public assistance.

Should you and your family move for the new jobs? Why or why not?

Situation 3

You work as a dishwasher in a restaurant. One day your friend calls to tell you about a job offer, which will be well-paying. With the new job, on the 5th of every month you would receive \$1,500 in cash. To get this job, all you need to do is send in an application fee of \$56.

Should you apply? Why or why not?

Situation 4

You were a lawyer in your home country. You planned on being a lawyer in the United States. Your resettlement agency worker has found you a housekeeping job in a hotel, but you have refused that job. You insist on getting back into your profession.

Should you wait to work until you get a job as a lawyer? Why or why not?

Situation 5

You are twenty years of age. You couldn't complete your high school education when you were in your home country. You saw it as a great opportunity to continue your education in the United States and you plan to attend school there rather than work.

Do you have to find a job or go to school first? Why or why not?

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