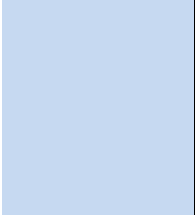


Topic: Employment
(IOM Middle East)

Activity: The Responsibility Is Yours

Time	5-10 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two posters saying: “The Responsibility is Yours” and “When you don’t have a job, your full time job is... LOOKING FOR A JOB!”
Introduction	<p>Introduce the topic with a short lecture on work in the U.S.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Okay, you know now that things are going to be tough. You can sit there and feel sorry for yourself or you can do something about it.Actually, you have no choice: In the U.S., not working is not an option. Public assistance is only temporary. How long might it last? (In most cases, 8 months or less.)Public assistance will barely pay for basic needs. If you want to live above bare subsistence level, you will need to get a job.Americans respect self-reliance. If you want to be respected by the American people, you must support yourself. Americans hate “free-loaders,” people who live off the work of others.Being able to support yourself and your family also brings you respect for yourself. You can sit at home depressed that you are going nowhere, or you can start moving forward.When you arrive in the U.S., there will be no employer going to the airport to greet you and offer you a job. You have to look for the job; the job will not come looking for you. Your resettlement agency will help you look for a job, but it’s not the resettlement agency’s responsibility to give you a job or to find you a job. The government does not guarantee you a job, either. The only person that is responsible for finding a job is you and you alone. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINDING A JOB IS YOURS!
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Put up the poster, “The responsibility is yours”.Ask participants the following question:<ol style="list-style-type: none">When you are looking for a job, how many hours a week do you think you should spend on job-hunting activities? a) 10; b) 20; c) 30; d) 40Ask for a show of hands as you say to the group “10 hours”, “20 hours”, etc.Ask participants how many hours an American works in a typical work week. If they don’t know, start with how many days a week (5) and how many hours a day (on average; 8), to get the answer “40” (or more).Now ask if anyone has changed their minds about the number of hours they should spend looking for work. The best answer, of course, is 40 hours – the same amount of time as a typical full-time job in America.This 40 hours can include English language class time, job training time, etc. Your

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job search plan (which your resettlement agency or government job search agency will help you prepare) will include those activities, but most of the time should be spent in actually looking for a job.

7. Put up the second poster on the wall, "When you don't have a job, your full-time job is... LOOKING FOR A JOB!"

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