**Topic:** Money Management

(Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Vienna)

**Activity: Family Finances and Priorities** 

## **Lesson Time**

## 50 minutes

### **Materials**

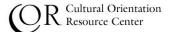
- Finances: Case Study & Group Discussion Questions (sample below, in English and Farsi)
- Monthly Budgeting Worksheets for participants (sample below, in English and Farsi)
- Research worksheet (sample below)
- Possible budget solutions (ideas below)

### **Practice**

- 1. Read the case study of the Aghajani family to participants, "Finances & Banking: Group Discussion Questions."
- 2. Distribute the case study handout and monthly budgeting worksheet to participants.
- 3. Go through each expense, asking the large group what they believe the Aghajanis will need to spend on things such as rent or food. Be prepared for participant responses to be underestimates, and provide a more realistic estimated cost of expenses, based on the research worksheet provided. Participants should see that the Aghajani's expenses are much greater than their income.
- 4. Divide participants into small groups and ask each group to discuss some ways in which they can help the Aghajanis save as much money as possible.
- 5. Have each group report back to the larger group to share ideas about ways to help the Aghajanis.
- 6. End the activity with a discussion of the idea that refugees must learn to focus on needs (simple clothes, food, shelter, etc.) as opposed to wants (blackberries, flat screen televisions, fancy cars, etc.).
- 7. Discuss banking and credit cards with participants. Explain that checking accounts often provide several ways to spend money besides cash. Credit cards may be considered a necessary evil: One needs them to establish a good credit history, but they enable one to spend more than one earns. Paying credit card bills on time and in full are two methods of using cards responsibly.
- 8. Find out if participants have any questions about previous activities or other financial matters, such as taxes. Tell participants that three important things to remember about taxes are: (a) Income tax is taken out of your pay automatically, (b) April 15<sup>th</sup> is tax day every year in the United States, and (c) accountants, CPAs, and companies such as H&R Block exist to assist with taxes, for a fee.

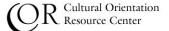
## **Variations**

- 1. Change the name of the family to make it more culturally appropriate for the group with which you are working.
- 2. Create additional case studies and have each group get a difference case study to



analyze in the same way.

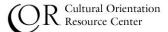
- 3. Translate the case study and worksheets for groups to discuss in a more common or understandable language.
- 4. Break participants into four groups and hand out the scenario. Have the groups come up with their cost estimate for everything the Aghajani family needs and wants. Have the groups report back to the larger group and discuss their decisions. Compare with the more accurately researched estimates. Then have the groups go back and discuss ways in which the Aghajani family could cut back on their savings.
- 5. Hand out the scenario and have the large group come up with a guess as to how much each living item would cost. Then provide participants with a more accurately researched cost estimate for each item. Once all expenses have been calculated, break participants up into four groups. Each group needs to find two possible solutions for the Aghajani family to better make ends meet, or even save some money each month. Have each group report their two solutions and then discuss their decisions.



## Finances: Case Study and Group Discussion Questions



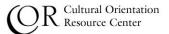
The Aghajani family arrived in Glendale, California, a few months ago. They no longer receive support from their resettlement agency and are trying to get by on their two full-time incomes. There are four members of the family: A husband, a wife, a three-year-old son (Jojo) and a sixteen-year-old daughter (Miriam). Mr. Aghajani has a full-time day-shift job doing grounds maintenance work and earns \$1,275.00 per months after taxes. Mrs. Aghajani has a full-time day-shift job doing housekeeping for a hotel and earns \$1,380.00 per month after taxes. Miriam goes to high school full-time, and Jojo must have a babysitter or go to daycare. What would you do to help the Aghajanis make ends meet or even has some money left over at the end of the month for savings?





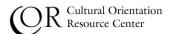
چند ماه گذشته خانواده آقاجانی و ارد شهر گلندل در كاليفرنيا شدند. چهار عضو اين خانواده شامل شوهر ، زن ،يك پسر 3 ساله و دختر 16 ساله شان ميشد . آقای آقاجانی یک كار تمام وقت در شیفت روز دارد ، كه شغلش باغبانی میباشد و از این طریق بعد از كسر مالیات در آمدش ماهانه 1,275.00 است خانم آقاخانی نیز یک كار تمام وقت دارد كه به عنوان نظافت كار در یک هنل كار میكند و بعد از ماهانه 275.00 است خانم آقاخانی نیز یک كار تمام وقت دارد كه به عنوان نظافت كار در یک هنل كار میكند و بعد از كسر ماليات در آمدش 380.00, 1\$ در ماه است . دختر 16 ساله شان مريم بطور تمام وقت مشغول تحصيل در دبيرستان

. شما چگونه می توانید آنان را کمک کنید تا خرج ها کمتر شود و یا در آخر ماه بتوانند پول پس انداز کنند؟



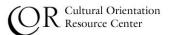
# Monthly Budget Worksheet for the Aghajani Family

Monthly Income (after taxes)						
		First Income (full-time, day-shift):	\$			
		Second Income (full-time, day-shift):	\$			
		Total Monthly Income:	\$			
Monthly Expenses						
monany Expenses						
Rent:	\$	Clothing, Toiletries:	\$			
Cable TV:	\$	Childcare:	\$			
Utilities (gas, electric, water):	\$	Travel Loan:	\$			
Food & Restaurants:	\$	Entertainment:	\$			
Car (gas, insurance, parking):	\$	Dinner Parties:	\$			
Computer & Internet:	\$					
Phone (2 cells):	\$	Phone (landline):	\$			
Adding It IIn						
Adding It Up Total Income	- Total Expenses	=	Savings			
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\$	- \$	=	\$			



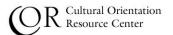
## حساب درآمد و خرج ماهیانه

در آمد ماهیانه					
\$	اولین در آمد				
\$	در آمد دوم				
	کل در آمد				
\$	ماهیانه				
مخارج ماهیانه					
اجاره	\$	لباس و لوازم بهداشتی	\$		
تلویزیون کابلی	\$	نگهداری از بچه	\$		
قبوض(آب/برق/گاز)	\$	وام سفر	\$		
غذا و رستوران	\$	تفريحات	\$		
ماشین (سوخت / بیمه/پارکینگ)	\$	میهمانی شبانه	\$		
کامپیوتر و اینترنت	\$	موبایل همراه	\$		
کل در آمد	کل هزینه	=	پس انداز		
\$	\$	=	\$		



## Research Worksheet for the Aghajani Family

Monthly Income (after taxes)						
		First Income (full-time, day-shift):	\$1,275			
		Second Income (full-time, day-shift):	\$1,380			
		Total Monthly Income:	\$2,655			
Monthly Evnonce						
Monthly Expenses	<b>S</b>					
Rent:	\$2,000	Clothing, Toiletries:	\$100			
Cable TV:	\$60	Childcare:	\$350			
Utilities (gas, electric, water):	\$100	Travel Loan:	\$95			
Food & Restaurants:	\$900	Entertainment:	\$75			
Car (gas, insurance, parking):	\$400	Dinner Parties:	\$100			
Computer & Internet:	\$35					
Phone (2 cells):	\$85	Phone (landline):	\$50			
Adding It IIn						
Adding It Up Total Income	- Total Expenses	=	Savings			
1 Star moonic	ι σιαι Επροποσο	<u>-</u>	Cavingo			
\$2,655	- \$	=	\$			



## Possible Budget Solutions:

- 1. The 16-year-old daughter can get a weekend job.
- 2. The husband or wife or both can look for better paying jobs.
- 3. The husband or wife can get a second job.
- 4. A grandmother, grandfather, or other non-working family member can care for the three-year-old to save on childcare expenses.
- 5. The family can sell the car and use public transportation (Note: Monthly bus passes in the Glendale, CA area are regularly priced at \$52/month, \$35/month for disabled and for seniors 62 years and older, \$24/month for students).
- 6. The family cannot use cell phones, using a landline only.
- 7. The family can choose to not host dinner parties or invite guests over for tea and cookies.
- 8. The family can rent DVDs instead of going out to the movies.
- 9. The family can shop at discount stores, flea markets, second-hand stores and garage sales.
- 10. The family cannot purchase junk food and not eat out at restaurants. They can cook their own meals and eat at home instead.

