Relief Across Borders

Weighing what aid groups can and cannot do in a crisis

SS24.CWI.5b "Explain the benefits and limitations of non-government entities resolving international events and crises."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two benefits of non-government aid groups, circle two limitations, and put a star beside a sentence that explains how aid groups and governments can work together.

After the Earthquake

1 Imagine an earthquake damages towns on both sides of a national border. Roads crack, clinics lose power, and families need safe water. A local relief charity already has volunteers in the area and knows which shelters people can reach. An international medical nonprofit sends trained nurses and portable supplies. These **non-government entities**, groups that operate independently of governments, can act quickly because they can move staff and use private donations to buy urgent supplies. Their local ties can help them hear from families who might not trust officials. Yet reaching people is only the first step in resolving the crisis.

2 Speed has limits when the emergency lasts for months. A charity may pay for water filters and temporary clinics with gifts from donors, but donations can drop while repairs are still needed. Volunteers may leave when their available time runs out, so a clinic cannot rely on them forever. Different aid groups may also bring the same supplies to one town while another town receives none. Sharing needs assessments and delivery plans helps groups avoid this gap. These problems do not erase the groups' early benefits, but they make long-term recovery harder without stable funding and coordination.

3 Governments have powers that charities do not. Officials can authorize border crossings, set safety rules for medical care, and direct public funds to rebuild roads and water systems. A medical nonprofit cannot simply send supplies across a closed border or order a public utility to restore power. Still, officials may lack enough trained staff or may not know which remote neighborhoods need help first. If officials grant access and share reliable information while aid groups report what they deliver, each side can address a weakness of the other. Cooperation can extend relief beyond the first rush without treating charities as a replacement for public responsibility.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the local charity and the international medical nonprofit offer different benefits after the earthquake?

2. Why might a charity's early success with donated water filters not guarantee help through months of recovery?

3. Why can't a medical nonprofit solve the border and power problems on its own, even if it has supplies?

4. How could cooperation address one limitation of aid groups and one limitation of officials?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A cyberattack delays medicine shipments between two countries. In four or five sentences, explain two ways a medical charity could help, two limits on its response, and one way officials could work with it.

ANSWER KEY

Relief Across Borders

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.5b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two benefits of non-government aid groups, circle two limitations, and put a star beside a sentence that explains how aid groups and governments can work together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the local charity and the international medical nonprofit offer different benefits after the earthquake?	**The local charity knows reachable shelters and can hear from families who distrust officials. The international nonprofit brings trained nurses and portable supplies.**
2	Why might a charity's early success with donated water filters not guarantee help through months of recovery?	**Donations can fall while repairs are still needed, and volunteers may leave when their available time runs out.**
3	Why can't a medical nonprofit solve the border and power problems on its own, even if it has supplies?	**Officials control border access, and a nonprofit cannot order a public utility to restore power.**
4	How could cooperation address one limitation of aid groups and one limitation of officials?	**Officials can grant aid groups access, which the groups cannot authorize themselves. Aid groups can report deliveries and share what they learn about needs in remote neighborhoods that officials may not know about.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A medical charity could use local contacts to identify clinics running low and send trained staff to help patients. It could use private donations to buy emergency supplies. It cannot authorize border crossings, and donations may shrink before medicine deliveries fully recover. Officials could approve safe crossings and share verified clinic needs so the charity sends supplies where they are most needed.

Accept other passage-supported benefits and limitations when students explain how they affect the response. For Part 3, look for two distinct benefits, two distinct limitations, and a workable role for officials.