Protection and Pressure

Evaluate responses to the Rohingya crisis

SS24.CWI.8c "Critique how countries and international organizations respond to human rights violations, giving examples from recent history."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one benefit of each response, circle one limit, and number the responses 1 to 4 in the order you think they could help refugees most. Use your marks to explain your judgments.

Four Responses to One Crisis

(1) In 2017, Myanmar's military carried out a campaign against Rohingya communities in Rakhine State. Survivors described killings, sexual violence, and villages burned to the ground. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled across the border to Bangladesh. Many had already faced restrictions on citizenship and movement in Myanmar. Bangladesh kept its border open during the largest wave and allowed refugees to stay in crowded camps. That decision offered immediate safety, but shelter alone could not restore lost rights or make return safe. Bangladesh also faced pressure on land, services, and funding as the camps grew.

(2) The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, worked with Bangladesh and aid groups to provide shelter, clean water, and other assistance in the camps. This response reduced immediate harm, but it depended on donations and could not force Myanmar to make conditions safe for return. The United States took a different approach: in 2019, it imposed sanctions on several Myanmar military leaders over abuses against the Rohingya. Sanctions can restrict targeted officials' access to U.S. assets and signal international condemnation. Yet sanctions do not directly protect people still facing danger, and refugees have not been able to return home safely in large numbers.

(3) In 2019, The Gambia brought a case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, accusing it of violating the Genocide Convention. In 2020, the court ordered Myanmar to take steps to prevent acts of genocide against the Rohingya and to preserve evidence while the case continued. These orders put legal pressure on Myanmar, but the court has no police force to carry them out. The case could help establish responsibility over time, while refugees need protection now. A fair critique asks what each response achieved, what it could not do, and whether different responses work better together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Bangladesh's decision help Rohingya refugees, and why was it not a complete solution?

2. Judge UNHCR's aid by two goals: meeting urgent needs and making return safe. How well did it meet each?

3. Why might U.S. sanctions put pressure on Myanmar's leaders without directly protecting Rohingya people? Use details from the passage.

4. What is one strength and one weakness of the International Court of Justice's orders as a response to the abuses?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a group of donor countries will fund one new action related to this crisis. In one paragraph, propose an action not described in the passage, name who would carry it out, and explain one likely benefit, one limitation, and how you would judge whether it works.

Protection and Pressure

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one benefit of each response, circle one limit, and number the responses 1 to 4 in the order you think they could help refugees most. Use your marks to explain your judgments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Bangladesh's decision help Rohingya refugees, and why was it not a complete solution?	**Bangladesh let refugees enter and stay in camps, providing immediate safety. Camps could not restore their rights or make return to Myanmar safe.**
2	Judge UNHCR's aid by two goals: meeting urgent needs and making return safe. How well did it meet each?	**UNHCR helped meet urgent needs by providing shelter, clean water, and other aid. It could not force Myanmar to make return safe, and its work depended on donations.**
3	Why might U.S. sanctions put pressure on Myanmar's leaders without directly protecting Rohingya people? Use details from the passage.	**Sanctions can restrict targeted leaders' access to U.S. assets and signal condemnation. They do not provide safety to people facing danger, and refugees have not returned safely in large numbers.**
4	What is one strength and one weakness of the International Court of Justice's orders as a response to the abuses?	**The orders put legal pressure on Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide and preserve evidence. The court has no police force to carry them out.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Donor countries should fund a team of Rohingya-led counselors in the Bangladesh camps to help survivors seek support and decide whether to share their experiences with investigators. Trained aid workers could help the team protect private information. This could give survivors more control and make support easier to access. It would not make return to Myanmar safe, and the team would need steady funding. I would judge its work by asking participants, confidentially, whether they could access help without feeling pressured to share their stories.

Accept other evidence-based judgments about each response's benefits and limits. For Part 3, the proposed action should be distinct from those described in the passage and include a plausible benefit, limitation, and measure of success.