



Read the passage carefully. Then answer each question in a full sentence, citing evidence from the text where asked.

## Global Hands, Ethiopian Hope



"Mama, will there be food today?" whispered Sami, his small hand clutching his mother Aisha's worn dress. Aisha looked out at the dry, cracked earth of their village in Ethiopia, her heart heavy. A severe drought had gripped the region for months, making it impossible for crops to grow and leaving many families, like theirs, struggling to find enough to eat. The community relied on the small well, now barely a trickle, and the usual markets were empty. Every day brought new worries about hunger and sickness, especially for the children. The situation was becoming critical, and local resources were completely depleted.

News of the devastating drought quickly reached beyond Ethiopia's borders, sparking concern across the globe. Through careful **diplomacy**, representatives from several nations, including Canada, Sweden, and Japan, began discussions on how to best offer urgent assistance. These countries formed an informal **alliance**, agreeing to pool resources and expertise to support the affected communities. They worked closely with the Ethiopian government, engaging in respectful negotiations that honored its **sovereignty**—its right to govern itself—while coordinating a massive relief effort. The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP), a global **humanitarian** organization, quickly mobilized its teams. Its mission, often guided by international **treaties** that encourage nations to cooperate in times of crisis, was to ensure that food and medical supplies could reach those in desperate need without delay. This collaborative spirit was essential for overcoming logistical challenges.



Soon, the skies above Ethiopia buzzed with planes carrying aid, and dusty roads saw convoys of trucks loaded with supplies. The WFP organized the distribution of sacks of fortified flour, cooking oil, and essential medical kits directly to villages like Aisha's. Aisha watched as volunteers, both local and international, carefully handed out the provisions, a sight that brought tears of profound relief to her eyes. This global cooperation demonstrated how countries can set aside political differences, even when complex relationships or economic **sanctions** might exist for other reasons, to focus solely on the shared goal of saving lives. For Aisha and Sami, the food meant more than just a meal; it was a powerful symbol of hope, a lifeline woven by the interconnectedness of nations responding to a common human challenge. It showed the true power of nations working together for good.

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#### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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(1) **What natural disaster caused the families in Aisha's village to struggle for food?**

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(2) **What does the word "sovereignty" mean as it is used in the second paragraph?**

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(3) **What is the main message the author wants to convey about international aid?**



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**(4) Why was the arrival of the WFP trucks a "moment of profound relief" for Aisha?**

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**(5) Find a sentence in the story that shows how nations worked together to provide aid.**

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**(6) How might a citizen of one of the aid-providing countries, like Canada, view the humanitarian effort described in the story?**

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**(7)**



**Do you agree that countries should set aside political differences to provide humanitarian aid? Use text evidence to support your answer.**

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