

## WHO SHOULD GET THE AID?

From *Teaching About Africa: A Continent of Complexities*.

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**Introduction** Foreign aid is the transfer of money, goods, or services from one country to another. Like other developing nations, many of those in Africa receive aid of some sort from other countries and organizations. As aid recipients, the African nations often face the dilemma of giving up a degree of independence or sovereignty when receiving aid if conditions for receiving requested or needed aid are imposed. As donors, powers like the United States, Britain, Japan and others must consider several factors in determining which nations to aid.

**Objectives** Students will be able to:

- Analyze the factors involved in determining which nations receive aid
- Select specific nations as aid recipients
- Assess the dilemma faced by African nations in deciding from whom to accept aid

**Grade Level** 7-12

**Time** One to two class periods

**Materials** Handout 23.1, "Who Should Get the Aid?"  
Handout 23.2, "Factors of Aid Checklist"

**Procedure**

1. Discuss with students how certain nations, particularly in the developing world, often must rely on aid from other nations. Ask students to identify types of aid (e.g., financial, technological, food, etc.) and list these on the chalkboard. Ask students which nations would most often be the donors of each type of aid. Discuss generally how the nations seeking aid must consider the advantages and disadvantages of receiving aid, and how the donors must also assess the advantages and disadvantages of giving aid to certain countries. In order to assess this, specific factors are considered. Share with students some of the factors that are often considered (e.g. form of government, alliances, resources, investment climate, populations, etc.). Finally, ask them to label each factor as an advantage or disadvantage.
2. Arrange students into groups of four or five each. Distribute a copy of Handout 23.1 to each group. Instruct each group to read the handout and make the following decisions for each country: Is aid needed? What type? How much? From whom should aid be sought?

