

Myanmar and Iraq most generous countries

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(via smahel on pixabay.com)

Myanmar was for decades ruled by an oppressive military junta. However, since the country returned to democratic ways, things have changed. The Charities Aid

Foundation (CAF) has just stated that Myanmar is home to the world's most generous people. It is the third successive year for the country to achieve this accolade. The CAF "World Giving Index" found that 91 per cent of Myanmar residents gave money to charity in the past year, 62 per cent helped a stranger, and 55 per cent claimed they had volunteered. An economic adviser to Myanmar's president said: "The results demonstrate very sharply how a 'poor' country can be a 'rich' one through its generosity, by focusing on giving rather than getting."

The report also found that people in Iraq are the kindest to strangers. Eight in 10 Iraqis are reported to have helped someone they don't know in the past year. The BBC commented on how significant this statistic was, given the turmoil Iraq has been in for years because of war. It stated that: "It is the kindness of Iraqis...to complete strangers in the face of years of conflict and terrible violence which stands out in the list." John Low, CEO of the Charities Aid Foundation, said: "The generosity of people, even in countries suffering from disaster and turmoil, is truly humbling." He added: "Unconditional gifts of time and money are a life changing force for good in the world."

Sources: [BBC.com](http://www.bbc.com) / [CNN.com](http://www.cnn.com) / [cafonline.org](http://www.cafonline.org)

Writing

What does the phrase, "Charity begins at home" mean? How true is this?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Myanmar / decades / military / democratic / generous / charity / stranger / giving / Iraq / significant / statistic / turmoil / war / violence / humbling / gifts / life-changing

True / False

- Myanmar used to be ruled by a military junta. T / F
- It is the third year in a row that Myanmar is the most generous nation. T / F
- Around 91% of Myanmar's people helped a stranger in the past year. T / F
- An economist said a poor country can be rich by focusing on getting. T / F
- A report said Iraqis are the kindest people to strangers. T / F
- The BBC suggested Iraqi kindness was great because Iraq is at war. T / F
- The CAF CEO said those in conflict-stricken countries should be humble. T / F
- The CAF CEO said gifts of time are better than gifts of money. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. ruled | a. upheaval |
| 2. successive | b. donated |
| 3. achieve | c. show |
| 4. gave | d. consecutive |
| 5. demonstrate | e. aided |
| 6. helped | f. absolutely |
| 7. significant | g. controlled |
| 8. turmoil | h. catches the eye |
| 9. sticks out | i. earn |
| 10. truly | j. noteworthy |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Myanmar?
- How generous are you?
- How generous would your friends say you are?
- How generous are people in your country?
- How important is charity?
- Are people in rich countries generous?
- Are you richer if you are generous?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. ruled by an oppressive | a. this statistic was |
| 2. returned to democratic | b. year |
| 3. It is the third successive | c. on giving |
| 4. The results demonstrate very | d. and turmoil |
| 5. by focusing | e. sharply how a... |
| 6. Eight in | f. military junta |
| 7. The BBC commented on how significant | g. of years of conflict |
| 8. in the face | h. humbling |
| 9. countries suffering from disaster | i. ways |
| 10. truly | j. 10 Iraqis |

Discussion – Student B

- What's the most generous thing you've ever done?
- Why is it important to be kind to strangers?
- How have you helped people in the past year?
- What are you going to do to help people this week?
- What do you think of the kindness of Iraqis?
- Are people in rich countries less kind than those in poor countries?
- How can we increase the amount of giving?
- What questions would you like to ask the CEO of the CAF?

Spelling

- ruled by an ivpspoeesr military junta
- It is the third eiusvccess year
- achieve this lccaadoe
- 55 per cent claimed they had tnredovuele
- The results damrsentote very sharply how
- through its goieresnty
- how nncfiatgisi this statistic was
- given the ouimtlr Iraq has been in
- years of ntiofcll
- terrible elcvonie
- truly nlubhigm
- aiioulndoncn gifts of time and money

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. e	7. j	8. a	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Cancer Research

You think it is best to give money to cancer research. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to give money to their things. Also, tell the others which of these does not need money (and why): endangered species, refugee children or political parties.

Role B – Endangered Species

You think it is best to give money to endangered species. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to give money to their things. Also, tell the others which of these does not need money (and why): cancer research, refugee children or political parties.

Role C – Refugee Children

You think it is best to give money to refugee children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to give money to their things. Also, tell the others which of these does not need money (and why): endangered species, cancer research or political parties.

Role D – Political Parties

You think it is best to give money to political parties. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to give money to their things. Also, tell the others which of these does not need money (and why): endangered species, refugee children or cancer research.

Speaking – Giving

Rank these with your partner. Put the best charities to give to at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| • homeless people | • refugees |
| • wildlife in danger | • save the children |
| • preserve historic sites | • political parties |
| • cancer research | • education funds |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.