**Humanitarian and International Activities.**

The world we live in today is full of unpredictable dangers. No country is fully **secure**. **Natural disasters** or man-caused accidents can happen anywhere anytime. Rapid emergency humanitarian response is one of the crucial tasks and one of the most important duties of the Russian Emergency Ministry.

Bringing relief to Georgian civilians locked in the Georgian-Ossetian ethnic conflict zone was the first **humanitarian mission** carried out by Russian rescuers in 1993. The mission included setting up a hospital in Beslan and **deploying camping areas for** **refugees**. That work proved to be successful – the **peacekeepers** finally managed to stop bloodshed in the region.

In winter 1993 civil population of Tkvarcheli in Abkhazia was starving in a blockade lasting for months. Russian rescuers were distributing food parcels, medicines and clothing to locals using helicopters; taking elderly, women, children and seriously ill people out of the conflict zone on their way back. The second stage of the humanitarian operation commenced in summer 1993, when sugar and food parcels had been **delivered** to Tkvarcheli by a column of special search and rescue emergency trucks. During that time over 3 thousand people were **evacuated** to Russia.

In 1994, the rescuers tasked by the Government of the Russian Federation had **to carry out** a completely new mission – **urgent evacuation** of Russian **citizens** from the Republic of Yemen, where an **armed conflict** broke up. Since then Russian rescuers have evacuated Russian and CIS citizens more than 20 times from foreign countries including Burundi, Congo, Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zambia, Iraq and Sri Lanka.

Russia has gained a unique experience of **rendering assistance** to people suffering in aftermath of natural disasters and catastrophes. During 15 years the existence of Russian EMERCOM, its experts have been working in dozens of countries on different continents, bringing food, medical help and humanitarian aid worth billions of rubbles.

In 2001 EMERCOM of Russia started to distribute tents, food parcels, medicines and other **humanitarian aid** to Afghanistan by air, rail and ground. The total weight of aid parcels delivered to Afghanistan by the end of 2002 amounted to 40 thousand tons. In 2005 Russian EMERCOM delivered over 60 tons of humanitarian aid to hurricane Catherine **victims** in the US.

The geography of Russian rescuers’ humanitarian operations is virtually the whole world: Tanzania, Mali, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola, Peru, Mozambique, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Tajikistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and many other countries. In January – April 2005, the rescuers took an active part in international humanitarian operation bringing relief to tsunami victims in South-East Asia.

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| unpredictable dangers – непредсказуемые опасности  crucial [ˈkruːʃ(ə)l] – ключевой  relief – помощь  humanitarian aid – гуманитарная помощь  to carry out  - выполнять  deploy – развертывать  refugee - беженец  peacekeeper - миротворец  bloodshed – кровопролитие | commence – начинать  to deliver – доставлять  evacuate – эвакуировать  urgent – срочный, неотложный  gain – приобретать  render assistance – оказывать помощь  to suffer - страдать  aftermath – последствия  victim – жертва  to take an active part in – принять активное участие в |

**Questions**

1) What are the duties of the Russian Emergency Ministry?

2) What was the first humanitarian mission carried out by Russian rescuers in 1993?

3) What happened in Tkvarcheli winter 1993?

4) What was the rescuer’s task in Yemen?

5) What countries did Russian rescuers help to?

**Найдите соответствие между словосочетаниями**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| gratuitous help  obvious fact  proper management  man-caused accidents  crucial tasks  set up  food parcels  armed conflict | вооруженный конфликт  безвозмездная помощь  устанавливать  продуктовые посылки  очевидный факт  надлежащее управление  аварии, вызванные человеком  важные задачи |

**Переведите предложения**

1) Жертвы урагана «Катрина» получили необходимую помощь и поддержку со стороны спасателей.

2) Очевиден тот факт, что здание, пострадавшее от землетрясения, в конечном счете, придется перестроить.

3) В течение двух недель спасателями были эвакуированы 1000 человек.

4) По последним известиям группе миротворцев, находящимся в Конго удалось предотвратить кровопролитие.

5) Люди, находящиеся в зоне конфликта, страдали от нехватки воды, медикаментов и еды.

6) Гуманитарная помощь была доставлена в Афганистан на вертолете.