

# Information Access for Disaster Preparedness in Central America



# Project Goal

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Support, rebuild, and improve the health information infrastructure of Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador:

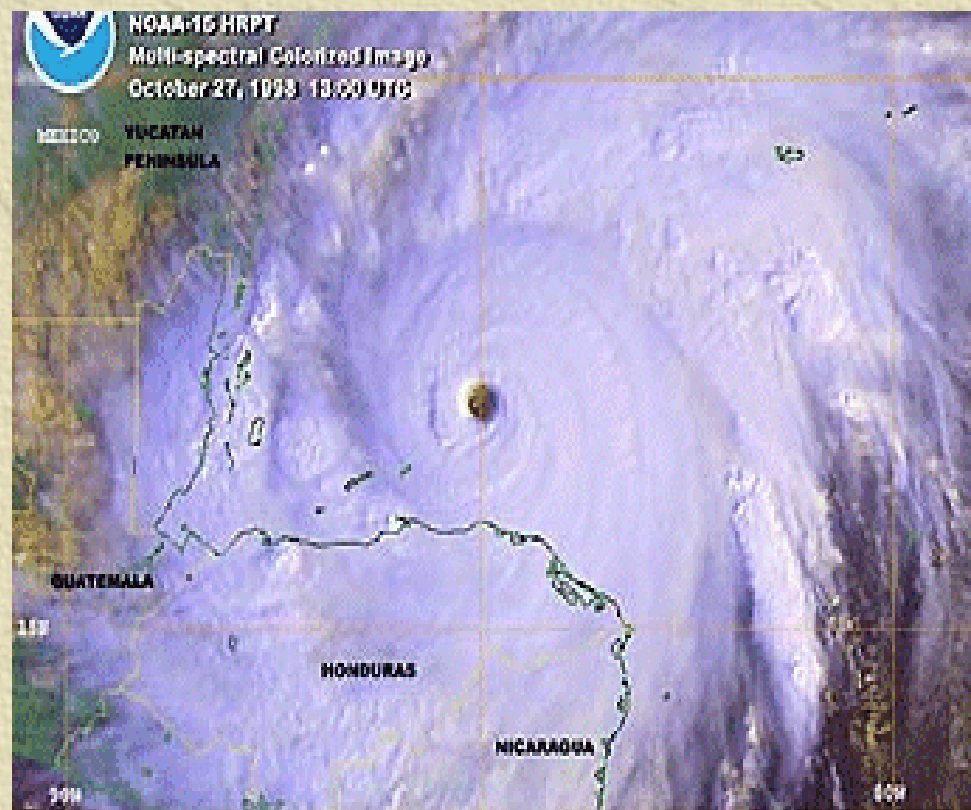
- ◆ Training of health science librarians
- ◆ Technology infrastructure
- ◆ Information product development

# Background

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## Hurricane Mitch – October 1998

- ◆ 9,000 killed; 13,000 injured; 3 million displaced
- ◆ \$5 billion in damages
- ◆ Crippled
  - Economic and social lifelines
  - Health and communication services
- ◆ U.S. Support
  - Over \$900 million



# Background (cont.)

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## Earthquakes in El Salvador

### ✦ Earthquakes in January/February 2001

- ◆ Over 1,000 killed and 4,000 injured
- ◆ Many health facilities destroyed
- ◆ Nearly \$3 billion in damages



# NLM/PAHO Special Project

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- ✦ Unique opportunity for collaboration between NLM, as the world's largest medical library and PAHO whose mission is improving the health of the people of the Americas
- ✦ Use the Regional Disaster Information Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID) as contractor



# CRID

- ✦ Collect and disseminate literature on disasters
- ✦ DESASTRES bibliographic database
  - ◆ References to 15,000+ disaster-related documents
  - ◆ [www.crid.or.cr](http://www.crid.or.cr) or [www.crid.desastres.net](http://www.crid.desastres.net)



# Participating Sites - Honduras

***Northern Region University Center***



***University of Honduras  
Medical School***



# Participating Sites - Nicaragua



**University of Nicaragua  
Medical School**



**School of Public Health  
of UNAN**





# Participating Sites – El Salvador



**Medical Library  
University of El Salvador**

# Project Progress

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- ✦ **Training of health science librarians**
- ✦ **Improving technology infrastructure**
- ✦ **Development of Information Products**

# Librarian Training

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## ✦ Initial train-the-trainers course

- ◆ April 2001, Costa Rica
- ◆ 15 librarians and computer specialists

## ✦ Second train-the-trainers course

- ◆ October 2001, NLM
- ◆ 12 librarians

# Librarian Training (continued)

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## ✦ Third train-the-trainers course

- ◆ September 2002, Managua
- ◆ 15 librarians and computer specialists

## ✦ Additional training courses

- ◆ Hosted by participating sites for health professionals, researchers, government officials, community organizations

# Project Objectives

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- ✦ Training of health science librarians
- ✦ Improving technology infrastructure
- ✦ Development of Information Products

# Technology Infrastructure

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## Computer Equipment Installation

- ◆ Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica (Aug./Sept. 2001)
- ◆ El Salvador (Summer 2002)
- ◆ Each site received a server, router, UPS, Ethernet switch, laser printer, scanner, and two PCs

# Technology Infrastructure

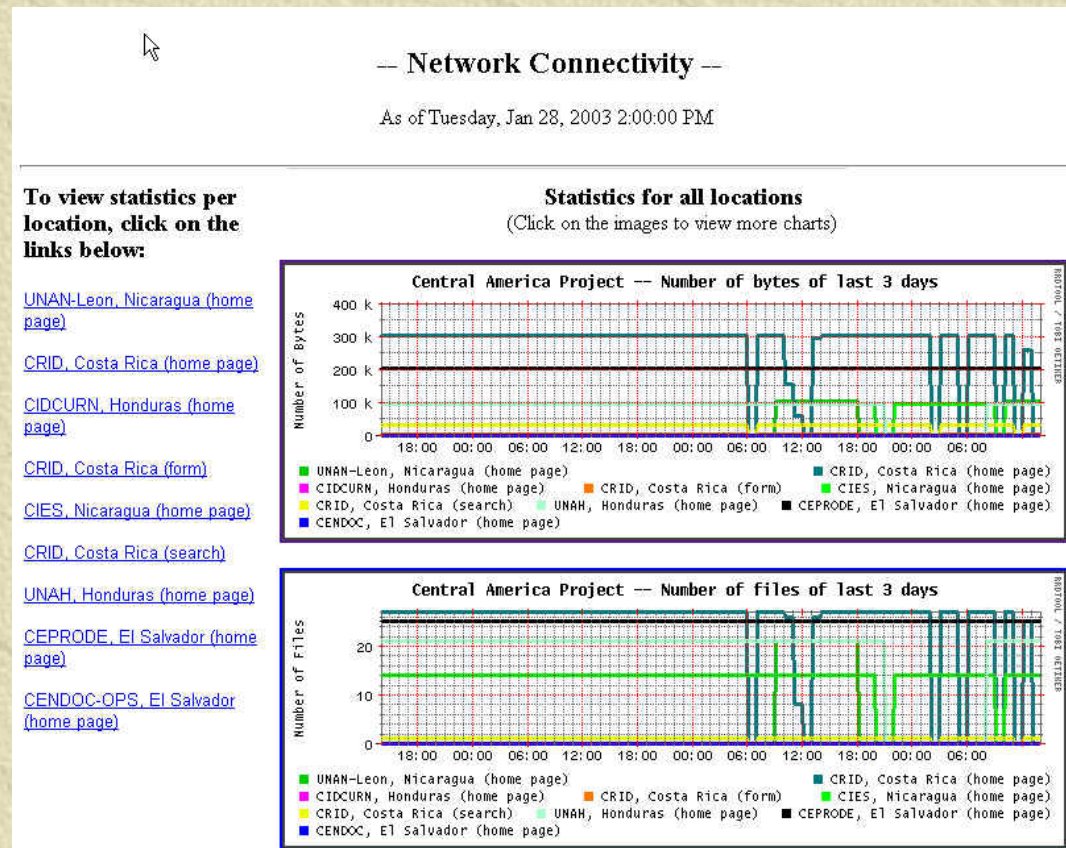
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## Internet connectivity

- ◆ 128K in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador
- ◆ 256K in Costa Rica
- ◆ Wireless links

# Technology Infrastructure

## Sample Service Availability Report





# Project Objectives

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- ✦ Training of health science librarians
- ✦ Improving technology infrastructure
- ✦ Development of Information Products

# Information Products

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## Document storage

- ◆ 1700+ documents scanned (only 500-1000 originally planned)
- ◆ Additional documents scheduled
- ◆ Links from DESASTRES database to documents
- ◆ Full-text documents in PDF periodically provided to participating sites on CD-ROM

# Information Products (continued)

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## ✦ Document accessibility

- ◆ Full-text searching capability of documents

## ✦ Web site development by participating sites

- ◆ Health resources
- ◆ Disaster resources
- ◆ Local resources

# Evaluation and Sustainability

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- ✦ Use of NLM and CRID resources by participating sites for disaster planning
- ✦ Incorporate information resources into curriculum
- ✦ Migrate program to local management with continued support from the international donor community

# Project Team

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- ✦ Dr. Melvin Spann, Associate Director, SIS, Retired
- ✦ Ms. Stacey Arnesen, NLM/SIS
- ✦ Mr. Victor Cid, NLM/OCCS
- ✦ Mr. Ricardo Perez, PAHO
- ✦ Dr. Steven Phillips, Former Assistant Director, NLM
- ✦ Mr. John Scott, CPSC
- ✦ Ms. Marti Szczur, NLM/SIS
- ✦ Mr. Dave Zervaas and staff, CRID