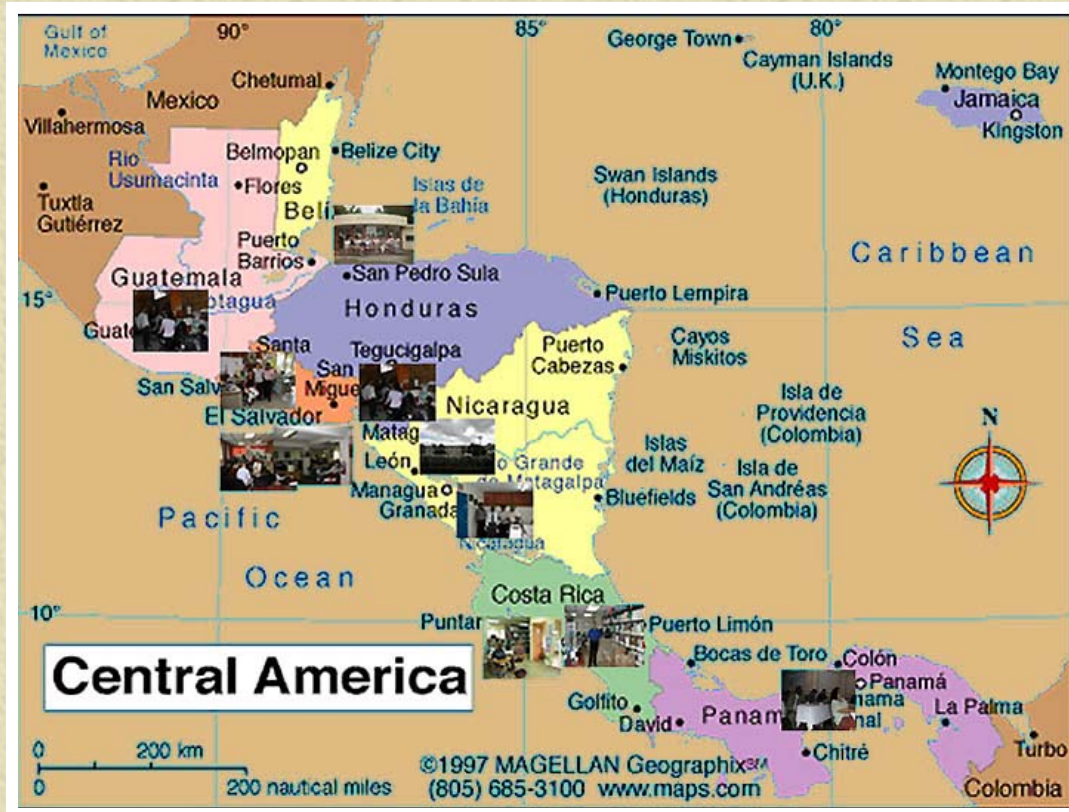# Central American Disaster and Health Information Network (CANDHI)

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Dave Zervaas, ISDR
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EPA-OEI Environmental Information Symposium
October 30, 2007

Topics

* NLM and international collaborations
* CANDHI Beginnings - Mitch 1998
* Regional Partner – CRID
* CANDHI Sites
* Objectives/Activities
* CANDHI in action
* Impact on Libraries
* Sustainability - Outreach

NLM's International Collaboration

* National role – international impact
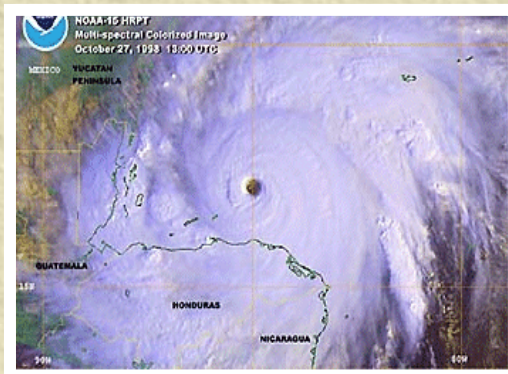 * International MEDLARS Centers
  * Opportunity-based projects:
    * PAHO collaborations in Latin America
    * Department of State collaboration in former Soviet states
    * International Training, meetings, etc.
    * HHS collaborations (MIM)
    * CANDHI

CANDHI Beginnings– Mitch, 1998

- Post-Mitch meeting in Honduras 1998
- Goal: Support and rebuild the health information infrastructure in Honduras and Nicaragua
- NLM-PAHO-ISDR collaboration
- 2001: earthquakes in El Salvador
- Regional partner needed

CANDHI Partner: Regional Disaster Information Center

- CRID, San Jose - Costa Rica

- Create disaster prevention culture through the collection and dissemination of literature
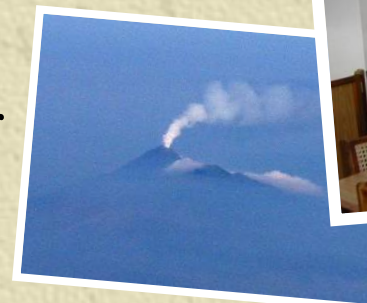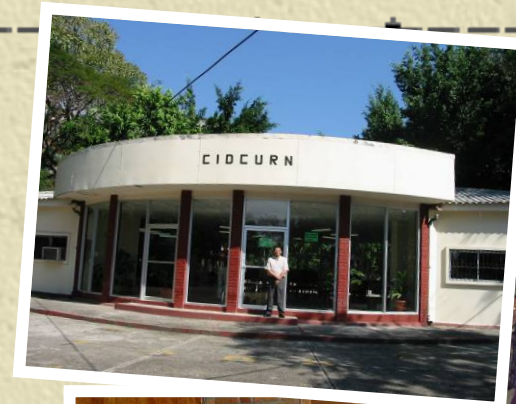
CANDHI Sites

Honduras
- UNAH Medical School
- CURN Library

Nicaragua
- CIES School of Public Health Library
- UNAN Medical School

El Salvador
- Ministry of Health/PAHO
- CEPRODE
- University of El Salvador

CANDHI Sites

Guatemala
- Universidad de San Carlos Medical School

Costa Rica
- National Emergency Commission

Panama
- National System for Civil Protection

CANDHI Objectives

- Technological Infrastructure

- Information Management Training

- Information Product Development

#1: Technology Infrastructure

- Computer Hardware and Software

- Local Area Networks

- Internet Connectivity
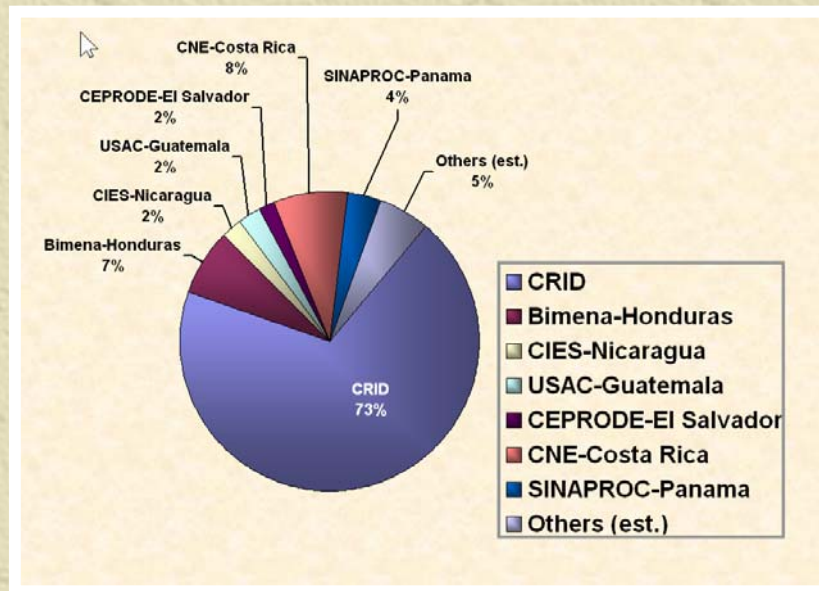
- Information Management Tools

#2: Training

- Training sessions in different Central American Countries and at NLM
- Information management, health information resources, information tools, IT training
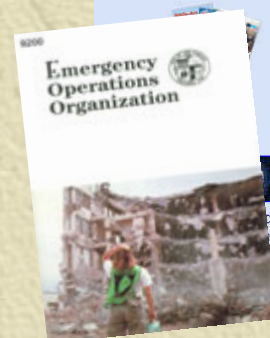- Train-the-trainer approach
- Teleconferences

#3: Information Products

Digital Library

- CRID – 11,000 documents; CANDHI centers – 2,000 documents
- Online and Special Topic CDs

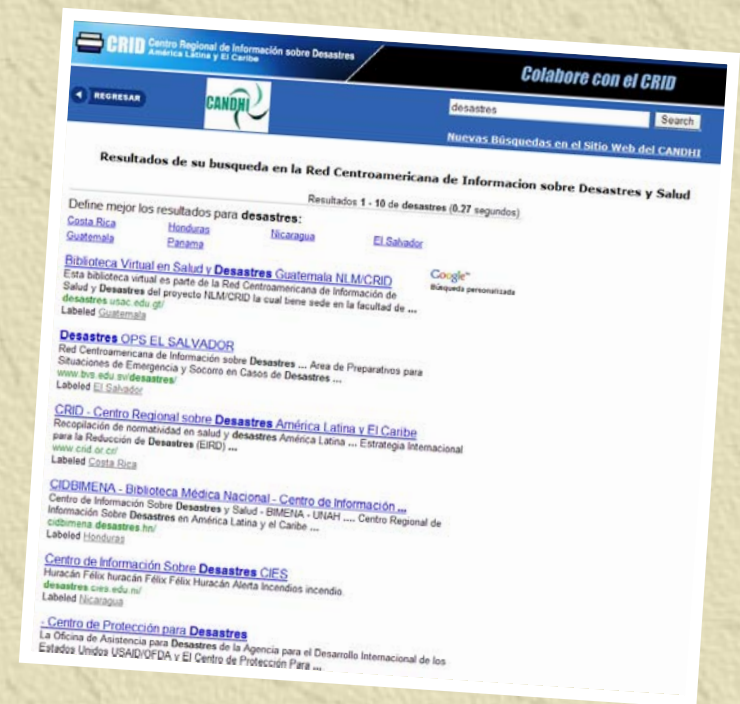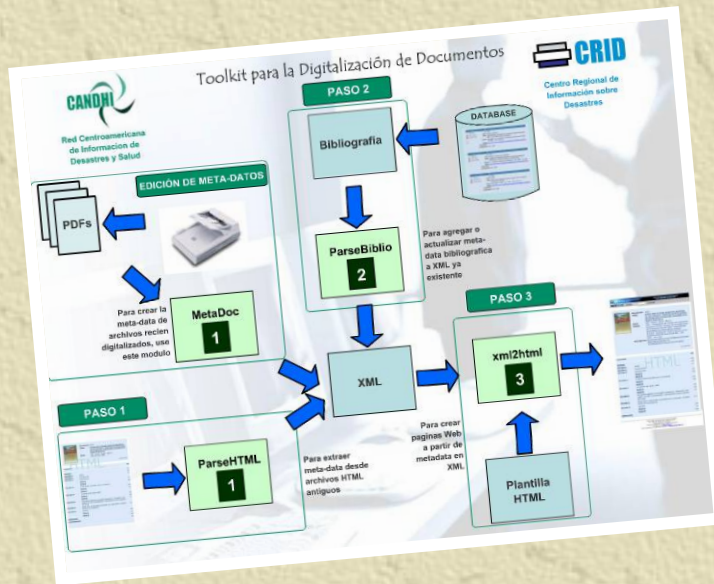# #3: Information Products

CANDHI Web sites

- Health and disaster resources

- Full-text documents

- Local resources and announcements

- News, maps, up-to-date weather information

#3: …and Tools

- CANDHI meta-search tool

- Digitalization toolkit

CANDHI in action

* Information services
* Education
* Disaster medicine curriculum
* National disaster committees/agencies
* International cooperation
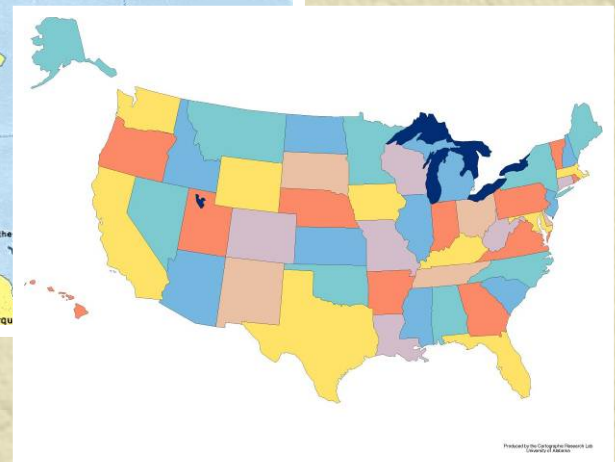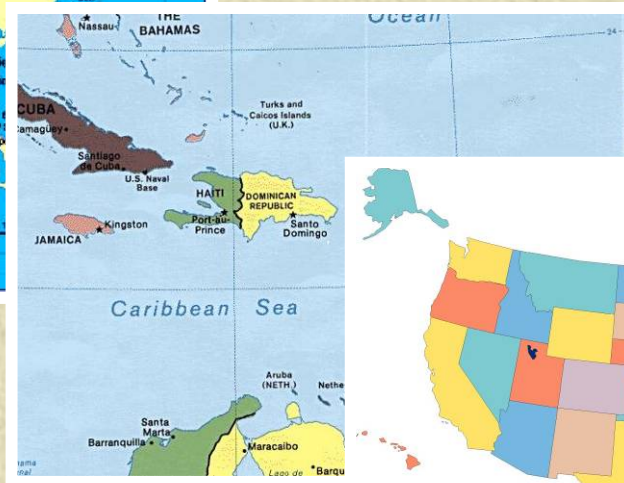* Sustainable methodology

CANDHI Impact on Libraries

* Enabled access to information
* Empowered health sciences libraries
* Enhanced perception of libraries and librarians

Sustainability - Outreach

CANDHI is a model that can be replicated in other areas of the Americas or the world

DISASTER INFORMATION CENTER TOOLKIT

Thank You…

Dissemination of quality information is…

the most cost effective disaster reduction activity and a way to empower nationals

Central American librarians/computer specialists

NLM

CRID ISDR

PAHO CPSC