



THE PRACTICE OF **DISASTER SOCIAL CAPITAL** AMONG COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN TWO FLORIDA COUNTIES

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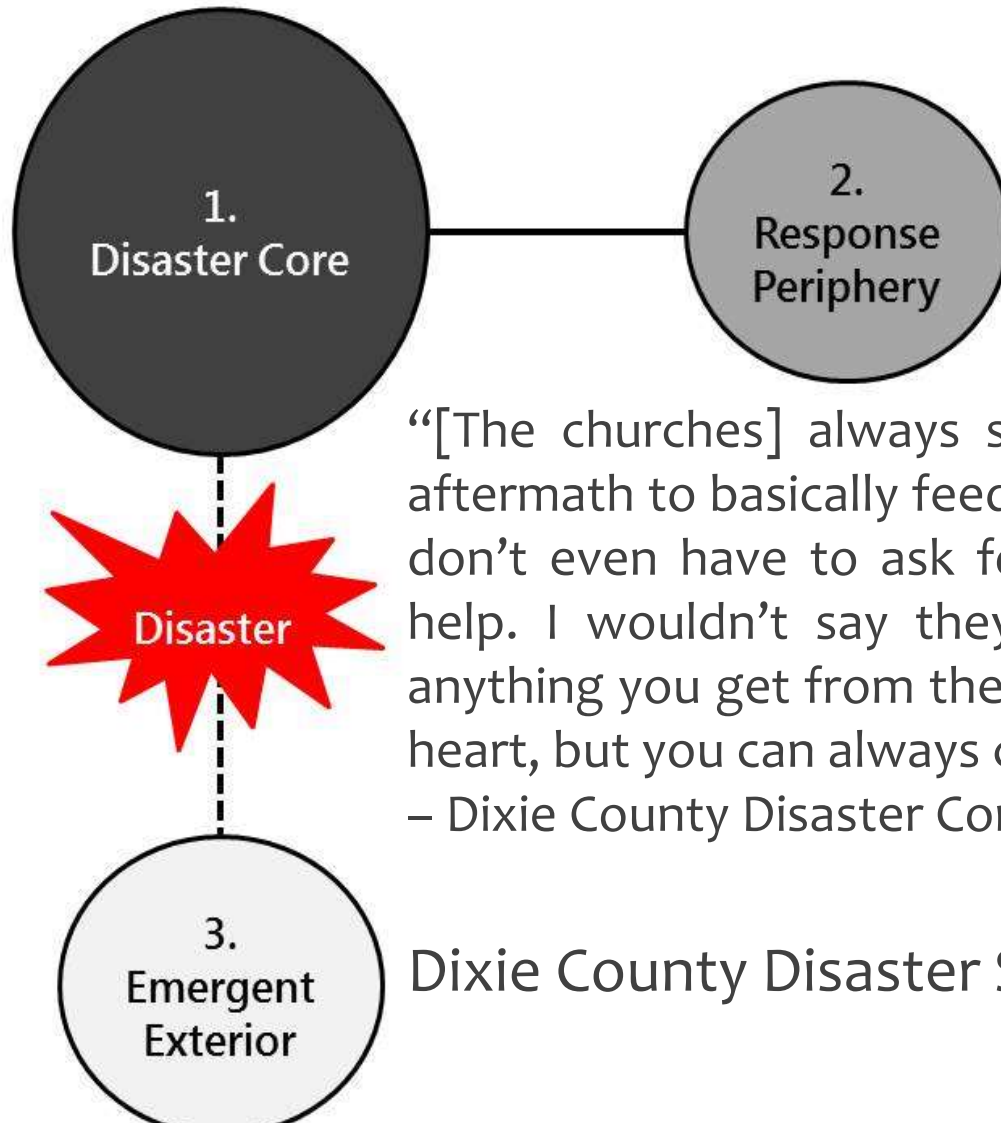
Figure 1. Case Study Counties

Table 1. Organization Representatives Interviewed

| Organization Type | Leon County (n = 23) | Dixie County (n = 5) |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Government | 6 | 2 |
| Disaster-mission | 4 | 0 |
| Referral/Information | 2 | 0 |
| Service/Advocacy | 8 | 1 |
| Religious | 3 | 2 |

Disaster social capital is defined as the disaster-related resources and information that is available through durable social networks.

Assumed Disaster Social Capital

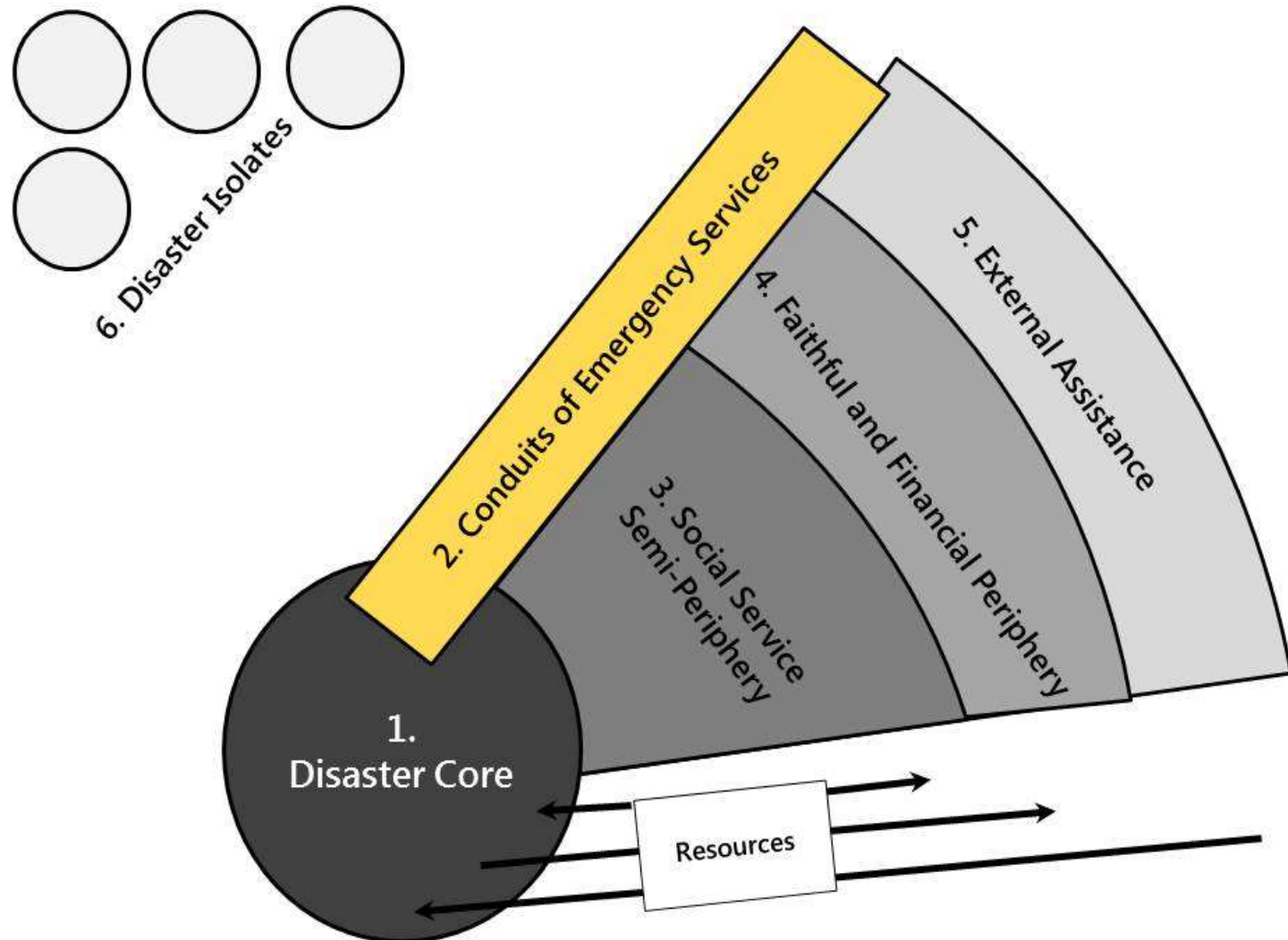


“[The churches] always show up as a great resource in the aftermath to basically feed, do whatever needs to be done. You don’t even have to ask for it. They’re going to show up and help. I wouldn’t say they’re part of a formal plan, because anything you get from them is just out of the goodness of their heart, but you can always count on them to show up.”

– Dixie County Disaster Core Member

Dixie County Disaster Social Capital Network Structure

Disaster Social Capital by Design



Leon County Disaster Social Capital Network Structure

The Practice of Disaster Social Capital and Resilience

1. More effective disaster response
2. Improved organizational survival during disaster
3. Increased attention to vulnerable populations

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“It keeps you from duplicating services. You’re just more organized and strategizing, “What do we need to do? Who do we need to do it for? Have we covered all our bases?” Some of the pros of meeting are where we know where we stand, we’re able to streamline the needs of the community and how proficiently we will provide that help during the time of an emergency.”

- Leon Disaster Core Member

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“So you have to sit there [in meetings and exercises] and think for half a day of things that I probably just don’t often have half the day to sit in my office thinking about that. And developing a relationship so they could help me develop the disaster preparedness plan and the operations and contingency plan.”

- Leon County Social Service Semi-Periphery Member

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“You can engage those partners, and they bring a lot of knowledge and experience, particularly knowing what the needs of those vulnerable people are that we may not necessarily know.”

- Leon County Disaster Core Member

“We worked with the [local emergency management] on getting special needs assessments forms filled out for people in the parish who might need additional help. We have a communion for the sick and home-bound, and we distributed those forms to all the people that were involved with that ministry. ”

- Leon County Faithful and Financial Periphery Member

The Practice of Disaster Social Capital and Resilience

Across counties, involvement in a disaster-specific network mattered, indicating that the practice of disaster social capital has implications for resilience beyond number existence of organizations, ties, or potential emergent action.

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