



University of Mississippi

Socio-Economic Resilience Profile and Dynamic Micro-Economic Analysis Project



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Prevent, Protect, Respond, Recover

Homeland Security Challenge:

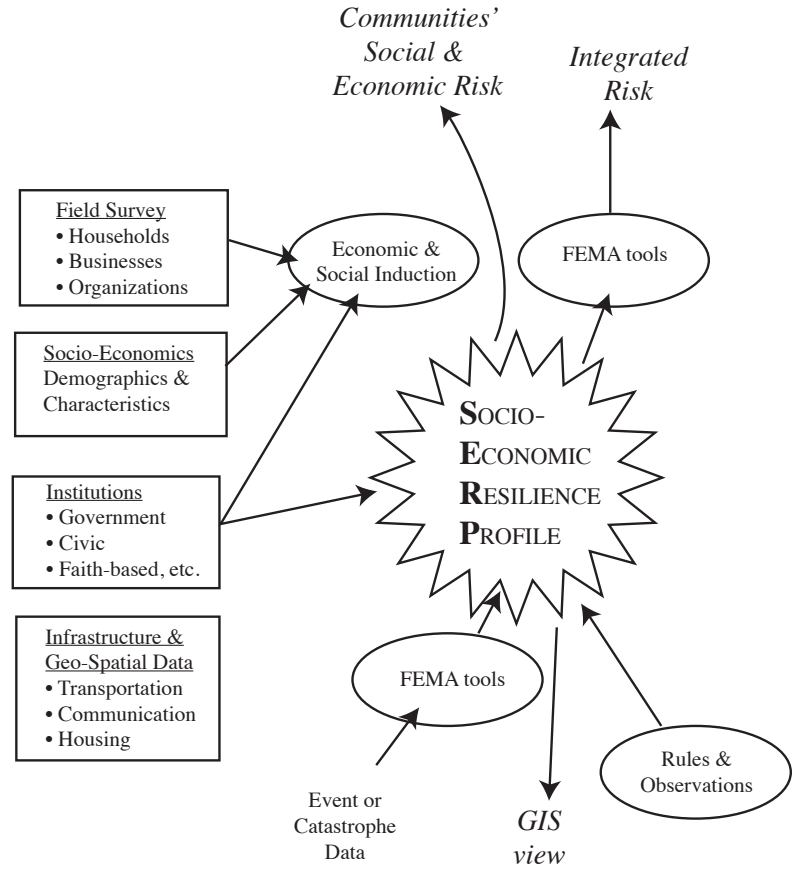
Little is known about how restoration of local economies should or could be targeted to enhance restoration of civic life and economic vitality within a region after a large-scale catastrophe. A significant lesson from Hurricane Katrina is that the resilience, social cohesion and recovery in an area that has suffered widespread catastrophic destruction are directly related to the restoration of the local economy.

Research Project Solution:

This project will develop measures and models for assessing communities' socio-economic resilience by incorporating two tasks. In the first part, census and survey-based measures of community resilience will be integrated into geo-spatial data to understand determinants and patterns of resilience along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The second part of the project will develop an economic simulation tool to project the Mississippi Gulf Coast's economic performance under different disaster and economic recovery scenarios. This project would conduct economic analysis of what could be termed "micro-economies" that exist at the levels of neighborhoods, wards, communities, or within specific populations or social groups. The goal would be to provide guidance and understanding to local leaders, to identify centers or nodes within the economic fabric of a community, and to enhance planning for the economic restoration of communities after large-scale disasters.

National Implications:

Results of this research should assist local governments and agencies in identifying and understanding the relationships among the people, businesses, industries and social organizations and networks that sustain a community's socio-economic vitality. The significance of the study is that it would be the first to integrate survey-level, social network theory into an analysis of local socio-economic resilience after a large-scale catastrophe. The research will systematically assess the dynamics of micro-economic networks across an affected population in order to understand how, which, and why disaster communities recover. The research will help improve knowledge of how to restore local civic life and economic vitality within a region after a large-scale catastrophe.



A socio-economic resilience profile.

www.serri.org

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SERRI is managed by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security