

Food Security in Disaster Recovery: Successes and Challenges after Hurricane Florence and Dorian

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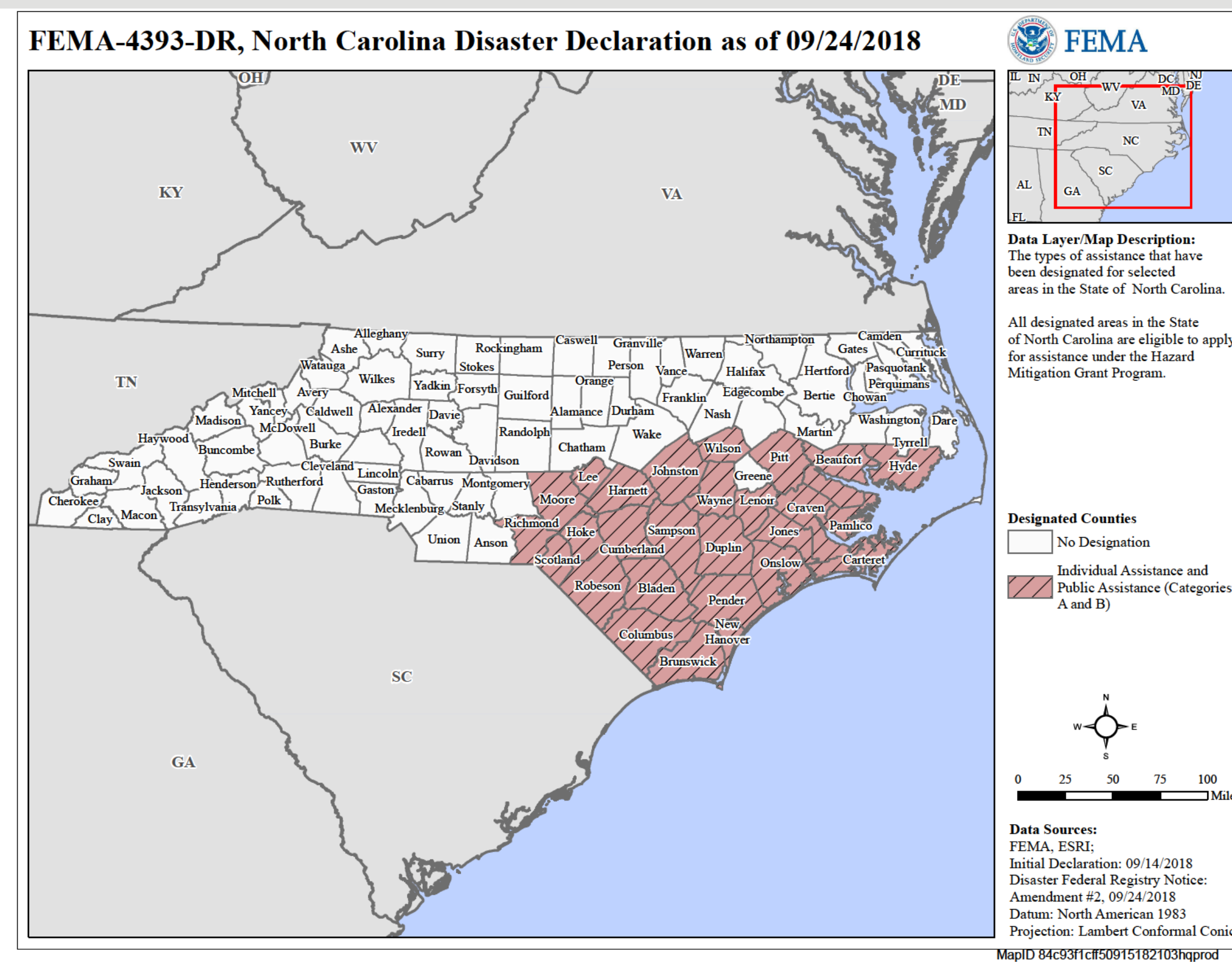
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BACKGROUND

- In September 2018, a category 1 hurricane made landfall on Eastern North Carolina, creating significant flooding and damage estimates of over \$1 billion.
- One-year post disaster, Hurricane Dorian threatened the same geographic area, and made landfall on the Outer Banks before moving up the coast.
- Dr. Clay of D'Youville College has led 4 teams to gather data on the post-disaster food environment after Florence in New Bern, NC, with the last team entering the field 24 hours after Hurricane Dorian

Figure 1: North Carolina Counties Affected by Hurricane Florence



CHALLENGES & OBSTACLES

- This field-work experience was unique in that the team began work within 48 hours of Hurricane Dorian's landfall.
- Limited access was available to affected areas due to amount of damage and ease of access on the island of the Outer Banks
- Limited lines of communication and access to new information due to how recent the hurricane was.
- Many areas of disaster relief were still in the process of being organized

Photo 1: Interview at Food Bank of Raleigh, NC



Photo Credit: Dr. Lauren Clay

BENEFITS & TAKEAWAYS

- Because of the Dorian's landfall taking place near the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Florence, the research team was able to compare disaster preparedness and differentiate between events
- Field work provided experience in reconnaissance data collection, learning how to adequately utilize time with limited access to information and resources
- This field-work allowed me to gain experience in a variety of data collection methods, and taught me that disaster research requires continuous questioning, evaluation, and the ability to connect and build relationships with a community

Photo 2: Damage in Emerald Isle, NC



Photo Credit: Analeeza Leggett

SUGGESTIONS/FUTURE PLANNING

- My advice for students taking part in field work and research is to be willing to fully engage in the new environment. Ask questions, be comfortable with the unknown, and always be open to learning.
- This experience gave me passion for the research I am working on and helped awaken my desire to pursue more research opportunities as I continue graduate school and plan my career.
- Special thanks to Dr. Clay and Dr. Penta for leading this field-work trip and providing guidance, and to the D'Youville College Department of Dietetics for support

Photo 3: Grocery Store Assessment in New Bern, NC



Photo Credit: Britta Heath

REFERENCES

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- Clay, L. A. (2019). Field report: Issues in the post disaster food environment during the immediate response to Hurricane Florence. Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal, ahead-of-print(ahead-of-print). doi: 10.1108/dpm-12-2018-0381