

## 2022

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### **Natural Disaster Preparedness for Regional Food Systems: Insights from a Community-Centered Approach**

The [Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization](#) (RDPO) is a partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the Portland Metropolitan Region created to increase the region's resilience to disasters. They have developed a multi-phase approach to analyze the resilience of its regional food system. The first phase was a scoping study to prioritize hazards, engage the community, identify key project partners and surface other ongoing initiatives. RDPO engaged the [Feeding Cities Group](#) to apply their disaster risk mitigation framework, which helps metropolitan leaders identify critical areas of weakness in their food system and prioritize the most important interventions needed for disaster risk mitigation. The framework is centered on equity, analyzing food supply and access at the neighborhood level to identify variances in impact for specific communities.

Comprehensive food system resilience involves adaptation as well as mitigation—robust interventions across the entire food system globally to mitigate negative impacts locally. Disaster risk mitigation has a narrower purview, focusing on near-term, regional interventions to mitigate the impact of various types of natural disasters.

The scoping study clearly established that a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of the Portland regional food system is needed. Although the pandemic mobilized many stakeholders to address food insecurity and food system vulnerabilities, there was a gap in hazard planning and a lack of leadership. The study also identified six priority hazards and mapped relevant stakeholders, especially those that may serve as future research and planning partners.