

CONNECTING FEDERAL, REGIONAL & COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FOOD PLANNING

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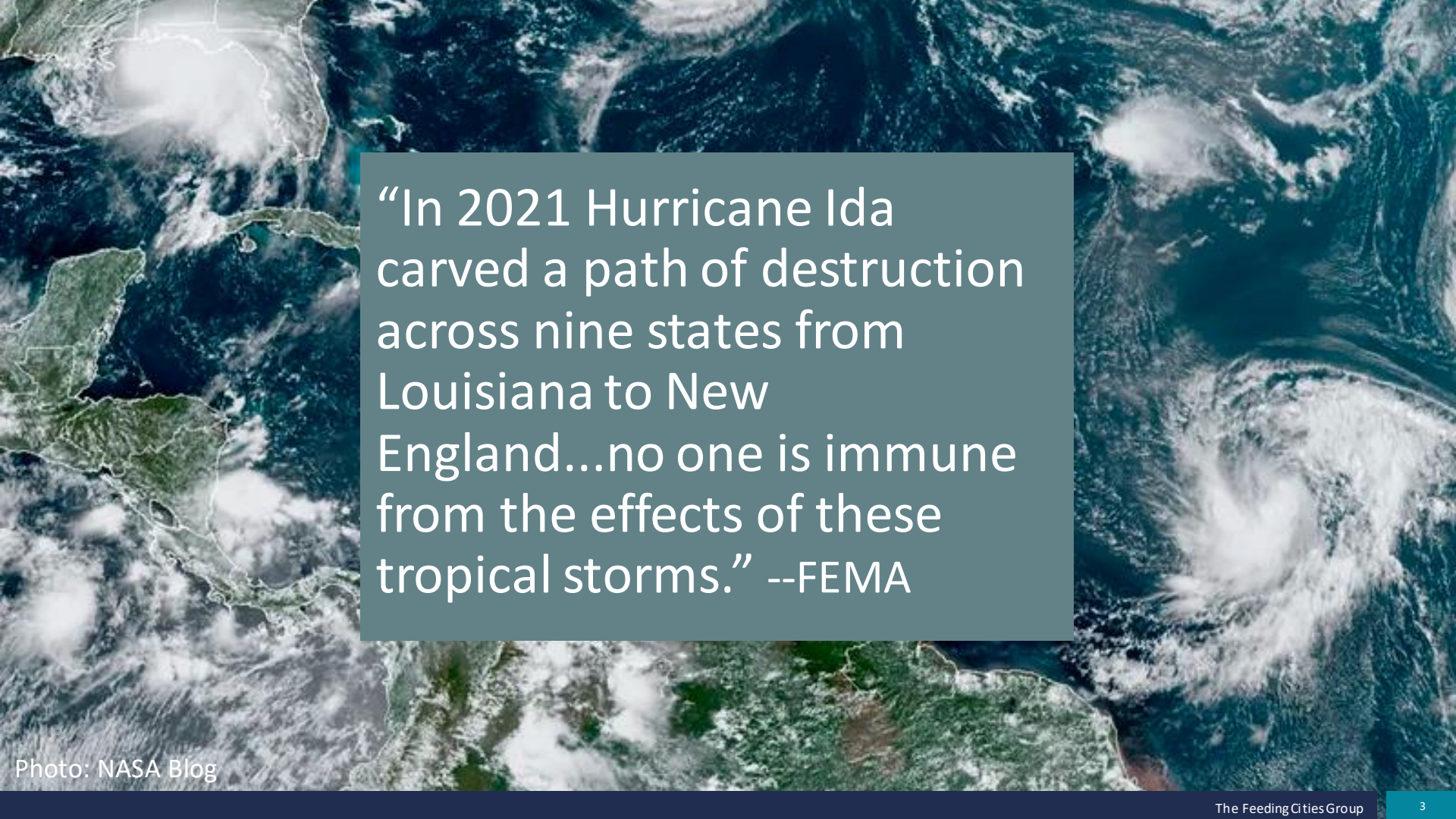


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Audience Participation

A satellite image of Earth showing a large hurricane over the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane has a distinct eye and spiral cloud bands. The eastern United States coastline is visible on the left side of the image, with state boundaries outlined in white. The ocean is a deep blue, and the land is green and brown.

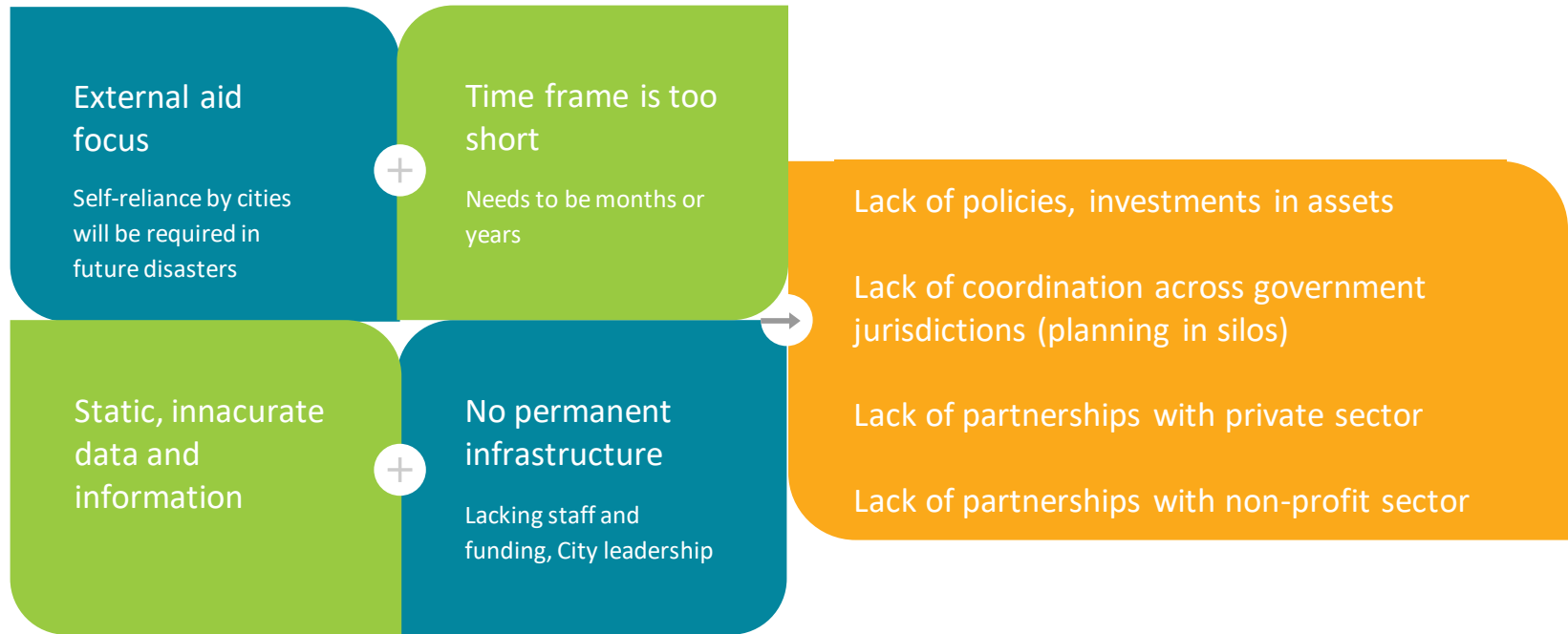
“In 2021 Hurricane Ida carved a path of destruction across nine states from Louisiana to New England...no one is immune from the effects of these tropical storms.” --FEMA

Planning for emergency food is critical due to the nature of the problem...



Complex systems, very short response time frame, food is heavy and perishable, different food preferences

LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT EMERGENCY FOOD PLANNING ACROSS US



OREGON AS A CASE STUDY

Generalizable

- Shared characteristics
- Inadequate emergency food planning
- Work in progress

Atypical

- Urgency
- Multi-jurisdiction events
- RDPO



DISCUSSION THEMES

- Data and information challenges
- Chronic food insecurity context
- A plan, maintain, build approach

The current state of emergency food scrambling worked well enough for 100-year events but not when facing perpetual or concurrent hazards.

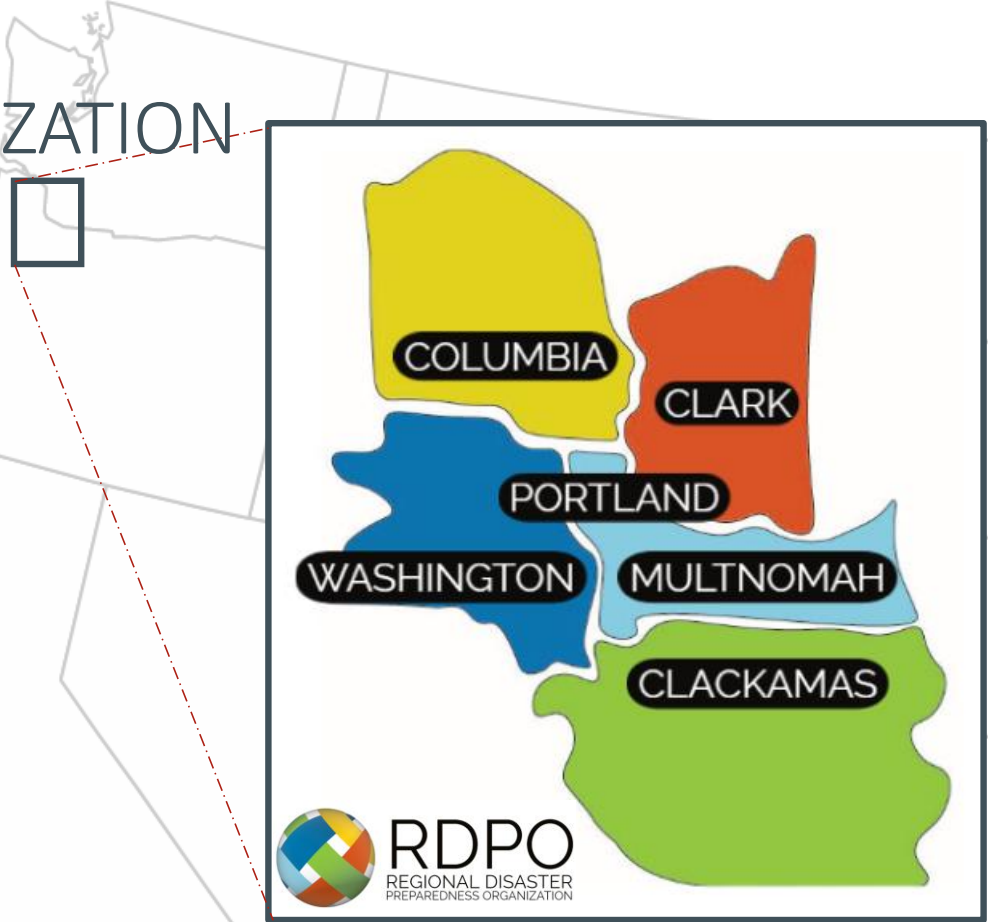
REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ORGANIZATION

Covers Portland-Vancouver metro

Partnership of:

- Government agencies
- Non-governmental organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Private-sector stakeholders

Collaborating to increase our region's resilience to disasters.



RDPO VISION, MISSION, PRINCIPLES



VISION

- A secure and resilient region.
- Local agencies, organizations, and communities are coordinated and prepared.



MISSION

- To build and maintain preparedness capabilities.
- To provide strategic and coordinated planning, training and exercise, and investments.



PRINCIPLES

- Create welcoming space.
- Regional perspective but keep jurisdictional autonomy.
- Incorporate transparency, accountability, equity, and fairness.

POINTS OF COORDINATION



PLANNING EFFORTS TO DATE

Motivating Factors

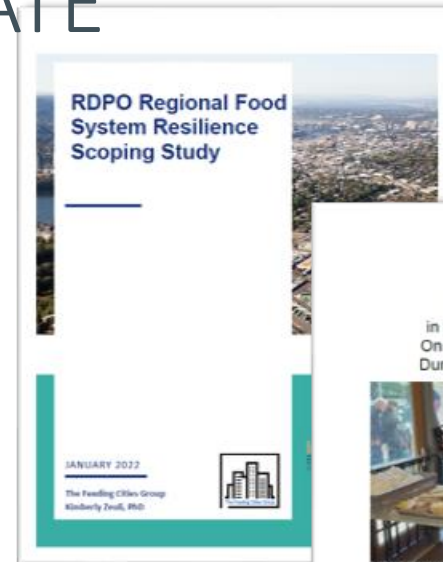
- “Catching up” to peers / follow best practices
- Limited Portland metro attention in area studies
- Experiences in recent disasters

Recent Research and Planning Work

- 2021 RDPO Phase 1 w/ The Feeding Cities Group
- 2022 Portland State University Phase 1.5 with Dr. Megan Horst

Coordination and Discussion

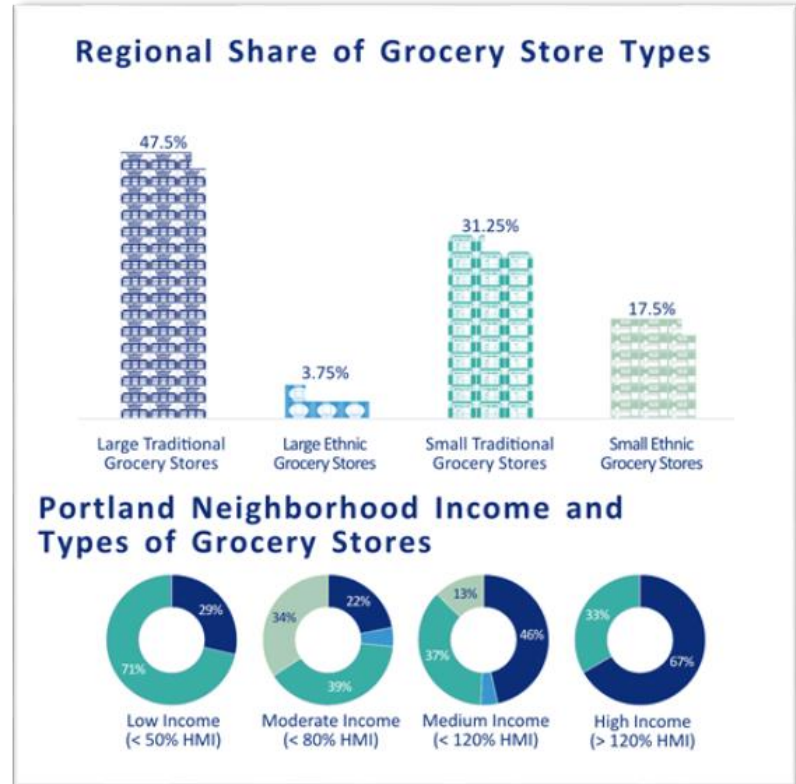
- With state (OREM, OEM)
- With FEMA



<https://rdpo.net/regional-food-systems-resilience>
<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/metropolitanstudies/156>

EXISTING GAPS & CHALLENGES

Identifying who needs to be at planning table



PLANNING CHALLENGES

- Siloed knowledge and disparate planning streams
- Incorporating innovation within existing processes and structure
- Managing regional planning vs jurisdictional planning
- Learning from past experiences

OFFICE OF RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Oregon's comprehensive Emergency Management Plan identifies ODHS as the Primary Agency responsible for statewide Mass Care (ESF6 & 11) – feeding, sheltering, disaster social services

OREM was created as Oregon's Mass Care Response and Recovery Program

1. Established in 2020 to address wildfire gaps across Oregon and between counties
2. Ultimately being built for Cascadia Subduction Event

2020 WILDFIRE RESPONSE

More than
4,457 survivors
sheltered

2,375 families
received disaster
case management
services

More than **3.1
million meals**
delivered

1,244 survivors
transitioned to
long-term housing

79 hotels provided
shelter under
ODHS contracts

Wraparound
services through **8
community-based
organizations**

MISSION SCOPE

Feeding/Sheltering

- 52+ missions (9/2020 to present)
- 2020-2 wildfires (4,502 households)
- COVID: hospital decompression, isolation and quarantine, vaccination events
- Afghan refugees (768 individuals)
- Asylees (402 individuals)
- Weather-related centers (27 events with 100s of shifts)

Food and water

- More than 6.1 million meals served (since 10/4/2020)
- Drought/Contaminated water distribution support to all drought-affected counties (longstanding)



ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS

- OREM seeks to ensure that services are provided to ALL Oregonians
- Dietary restrictions, nutritional supplements, caloric balance all figure into each meal served
- Access to meals and meal ordering process was planned/designed by those experiencing the disaster
- All feeding vendors are required to be able to serve 7 different culturally-specific meals

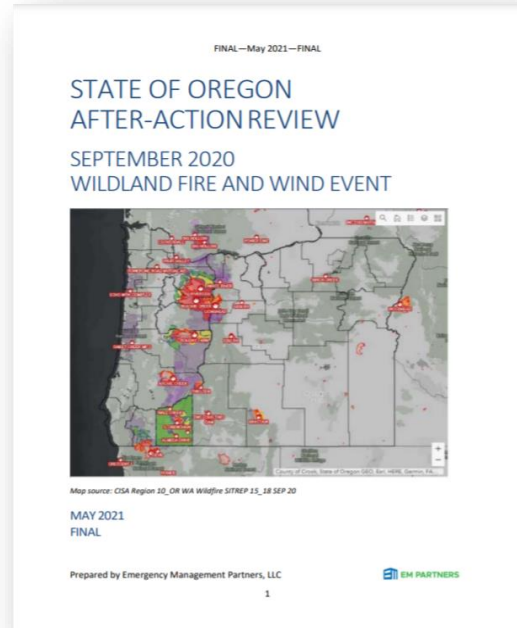
CRITICAL GAPS

“ODHS staff dedicated to the mass care mission need a **structured, funded, ongoing training and exercise program** for operations in declared emergencies.

Relationship building

with partners should be a noted priority.” (p.50)

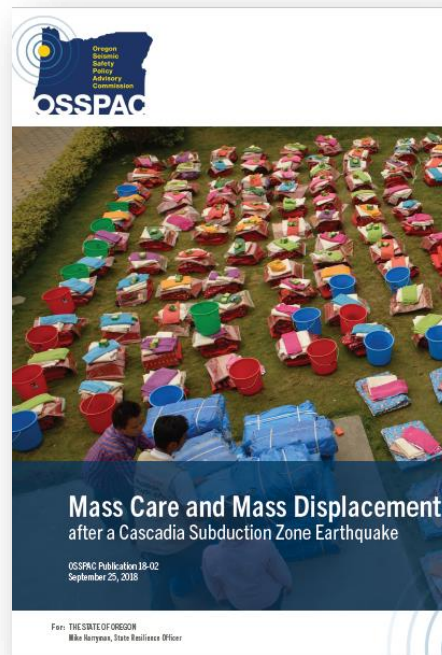
“Staffing gaps at ODHS, including a vacancy in the state Mass Care Lead role, created a **gap in disaster response-related institutional knowledge**, and challenges connecting with mass care operational partners with subject matter expertise.” (p.10)



CASCADIA UNPREPAREDNESS

“Oregon is currently **not prepared to provide mass care and mass displacement services** for its residents and visitors following a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami.” (p. iv)

“**Recommendation:** Provide transparent and consistent funding mechanisms for all mass care and mass displacement coordination and resilience planning. State agencies with mass care roles need to have stable funding for specific programs to ensure their emergency and recovery functions are adequately executed.” (p. 9)



FEEDING MISSION BARRIERS

- Access to statewide data for assessment
- Supply chains and understanding “hidden assets” (USDA)
- Limited federal resources (FEMA’s role)
- State procurement rules/processes
- Food delivery systems
- Lack of dependable statewide food network/collaboration

A FEMA-ALIGNED STRATEGY

FEMA GOAL 1

Instill equity as a foundation of emergency management

- Engaging community partners to gain understanding of local strengths and vulnerabilities
- Addressing historical disparities and achieve equitable outcomes

FEMA GOAL 2

Lead whole of community in climate resilience

- Building local resilience through joint planning, training, and exercising
- Empowering CBOs to continue their work beyond the pandemic

FEMA GOAL 3

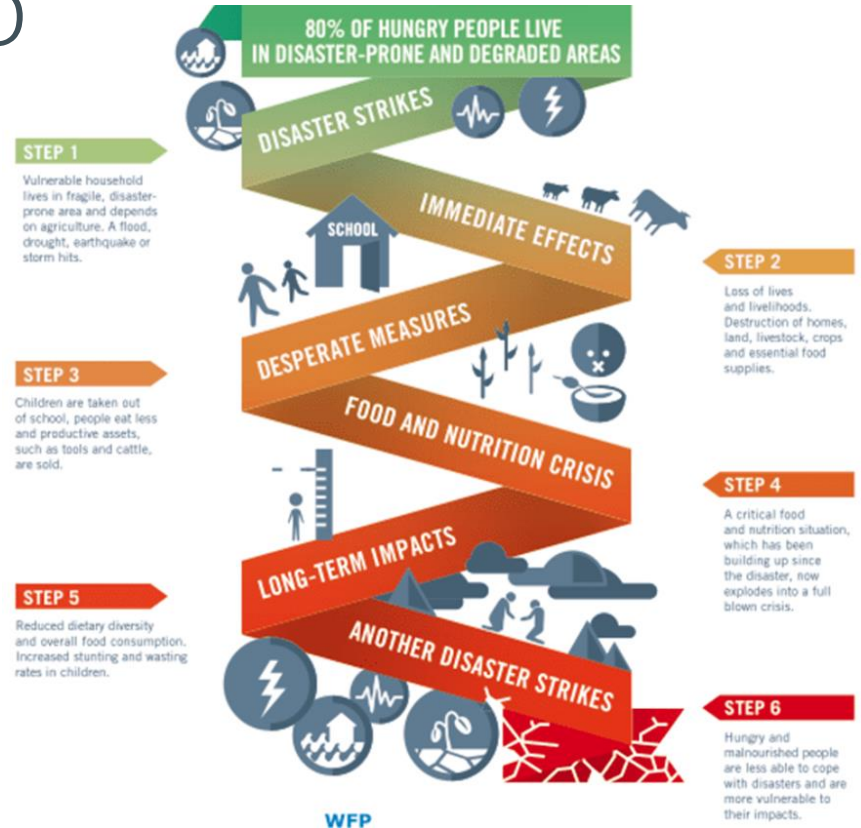
Promote and sustain agency readiness and a prepared nation

- Promoting better coordination across state, regional, and local partners
- Helping people and communities leverage state programs

ODHS Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) initiatives

BUILDING A PREPARED OREGON

- Established a statewide Feeding/Sheltering Task Force (meet bi-monthly)
- Augment food hubs with resilience legislation
- Creating an “All Hazards” feeding vendor contract
- Maintain ongoing relationships with all vendors/Oregon Food Bank
- Foster strong connections within FEMA and USDA
- Understand how island mapping impacts this work



FUTURE WORK



- Working to triple the number of feeding vendors across the state in the next biennium
- Create a state-wide “island mapping” demographic view of all communities
- Establish EMAC feeding agreements with neighboring states (CA, ID, NV, WA)
- Stock resilience/food hubs

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Problem

Inadequate emergency food plans and planning process

No sustainable emergency food infrastructure

Solution

Coordination that works

Getting the right people at the table

Identify what can be outsourced and trusted partners in planning and implementation



THANK YOU!

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