

## **A Comparative Assessment of the Food Supply Vulnerability to Large-Scale Disasters in OECD Countries**

**Authors :** Karolin Bauer, Anna Brinkmann

**Abstract :** Vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure can cause significant difficulties for the affected population during crises. Securing the food supply as part of the critical infrastructure in crisis situations is an essential part of public services and a ground stone for a successful concept of civil protection. In most industrialized countries, there are currently no comparative studies regarding the food supply of the population during crisis and disaster events. In order to mitigate the potential impact in case of major disasters in Germany, it is absolutely necessary to investigate how the food supply can be secured. The research project aims to provide in-depth research on the experiences gathered during past large-scale disasters in the 34 OECD member countries in order to discover alternatives for an updated civil protection system in Germany. The basic research question is: "Which international approaches and structures of civil protection have been proven and would be useful to modernize the German civil protection with regards to the critical infrastructure and food supply?" Research findings should be extracted from an extensive literature review covering the entire research period as well as from personal and online-based interviews with experts and responsible persons from involved institutions. The capability of the research project insists on the deliberate choice to investigate previous large-scale disasters to formulate important and practical approaches to modernize civil protection in Germany.

**Keywords :** food supply, vulnerability, critical infrastructure, large-scale disaster

**Conference Title :** ICGFS 2016 : International Conference on Global Food Security

**Conference Location :** Miami, United States

**Conference Dates :** March 24-25, 2016