



Bundesamt
für Bevölkerungsschutz
und Katastrophenhilfe

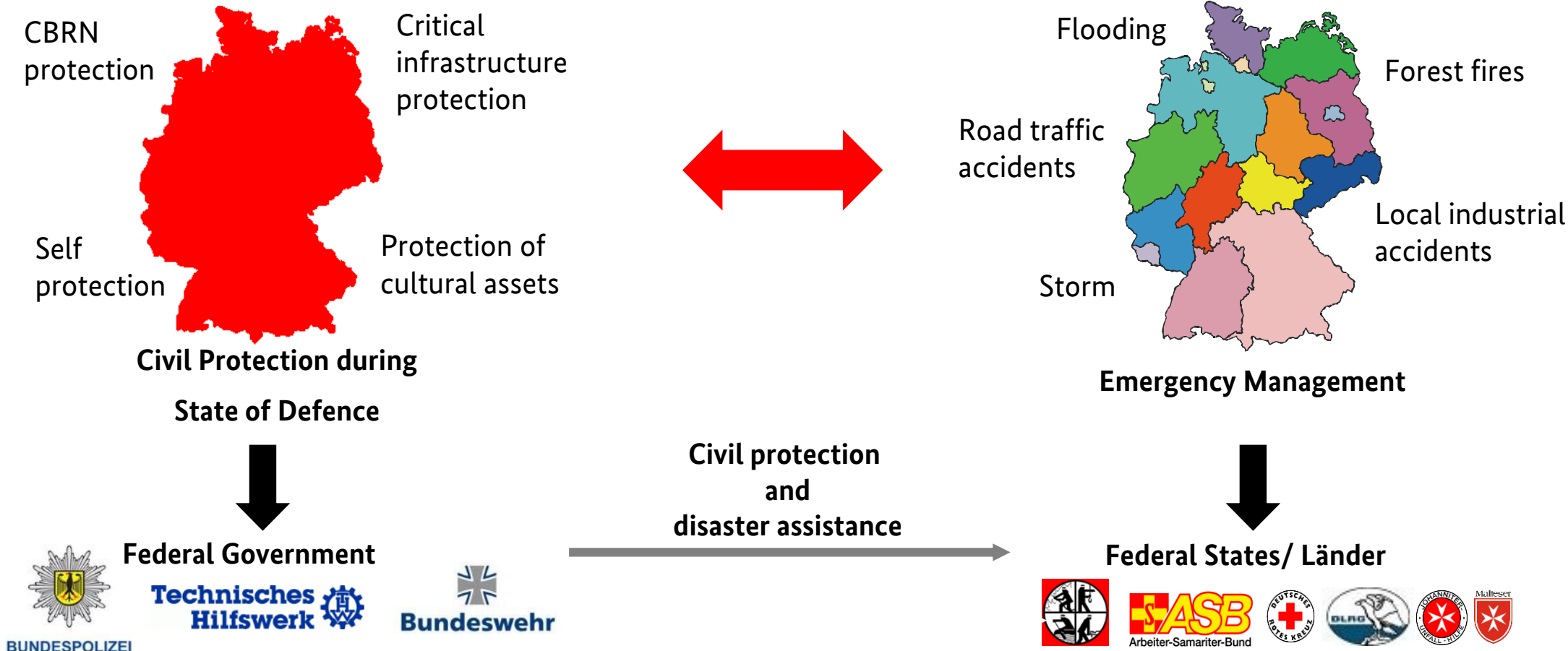
The Civil Protection System of Germany

A brief overview combined with a recent example

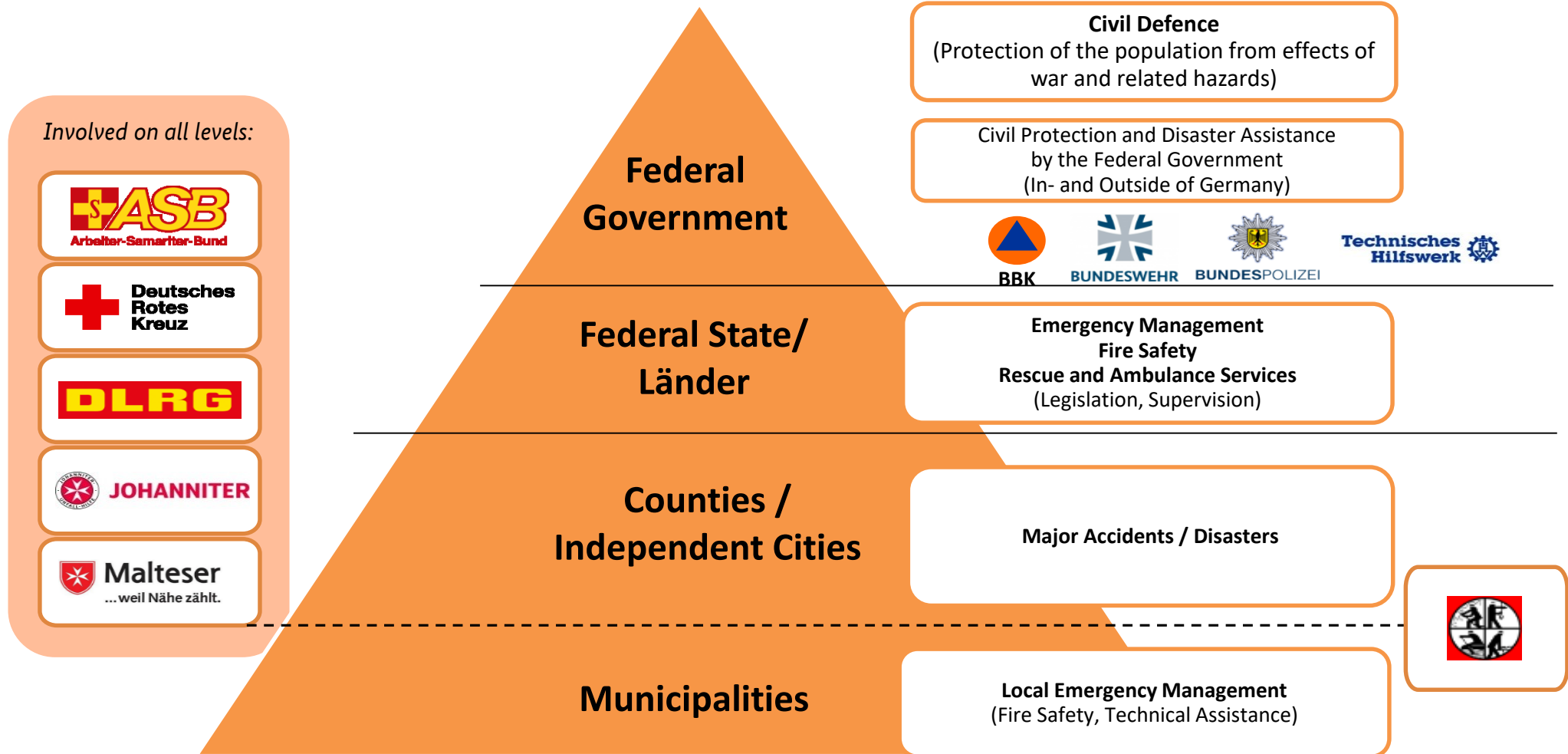


BBK. Gemeinsam handeln. Sicher leben.

The Constitutional Framework



Civil Protection in Germany on its different levels



Foundation of German Civil Protection

Fire brigades, rescue services and technical relief agencies rely on **vast numbers of volunteers**. These are well-trained, unpaid citizens who contribute their time to support the civil protection system in Germany.

Three examples:

Fire brigades: 1,1 million active fire fighters
of whom 96% are volunteers



German Red Cross (DRK): 540 000 active members
of whom 74% are volunteers



Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW): 88 000 active members
of whom 99% are volunteers

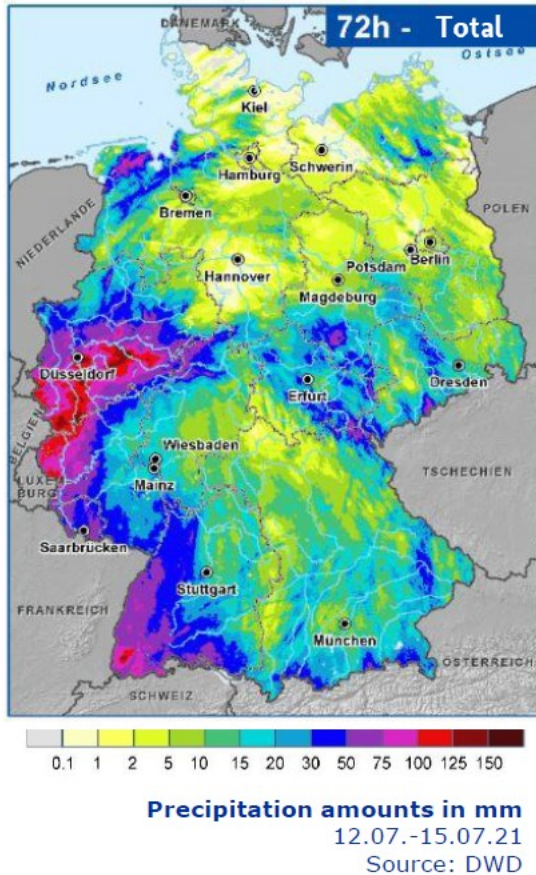


The Floods of 14./15. July 2021 (with special focus on the Ahr Valley)



Source: Martin Seifert CCO

The Floods of 14./15. July 2023



- From 12-15 July 2023, parts of Europe, including Germany experienced unusually high amounts of rainfall, with significantly more rain coming down within 24 hours than usually during the whole month of July.
- The specific **topography** of the Ahr Valley with steep slopes and a narrow river bed further exacerbated the situation.
- More than 180 people died nationwide (>130 in the district of Ahrweiler alone)
- Largest/deadliest disaster in Germany since the North Sea Flood of 1962, with estimated direct **damages of over €30 billion**, incl. about €13 billion of public infrastructure and even more than that regarding private homes



Source: Andreas Hermens

Images from the days after the flood...



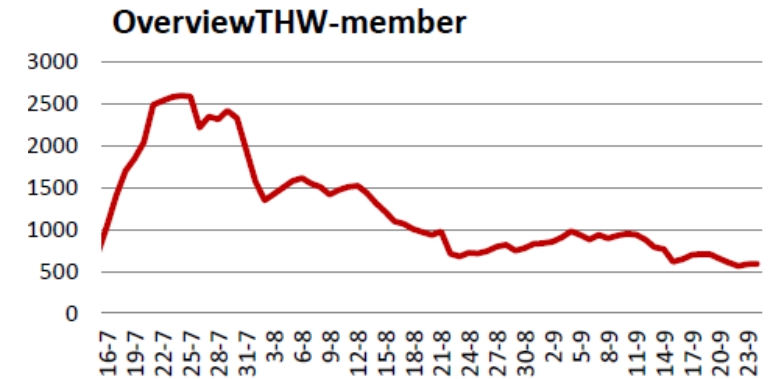
Source: Ulf Krüger



Source: Corinna Vigier

The response in (some) numbers...

- **THW** activated and deployed more than 99% of its local sections, making it by far its largest response in its 70 years of existence. A total of about 16,200 THW-members were deployed for a combined total of more than 2 million hours of operation.



Source: Bundesanstalt THW

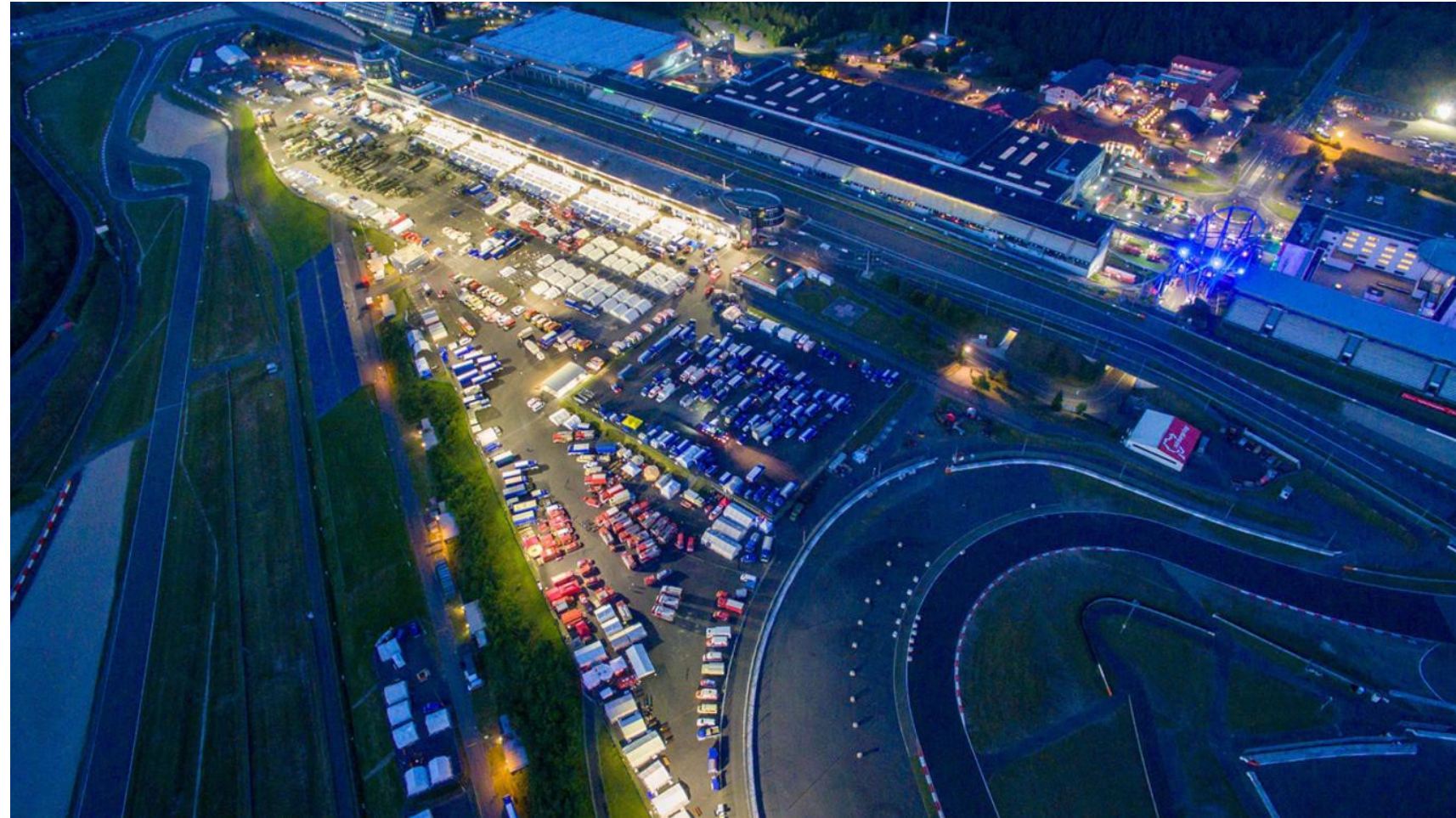
- The **Federal Police** deployed over 7.500 staff during the first two months
- The **German Armed Forces** deployed up to 2,300 staff working for a combined total of 60,000 days.
- Staff of the three **relief organizations** ASB, DLRG and German Red Cross were involved for a combined total of over 130,000 working days. MHD, JUH and others equally were involved significantly.
- In addition, it was estimated that **up to 100,000 spontaneous volunteers** were active in the Ahr Valley alone to support clean-up and restoration work over the first months, with NGOs like Helfer Shuttle facilitating transport and individual assignments

Source: BMI Report on 2021 Floods

Examples of Bases of Operations (Nürburgring & BABZ)

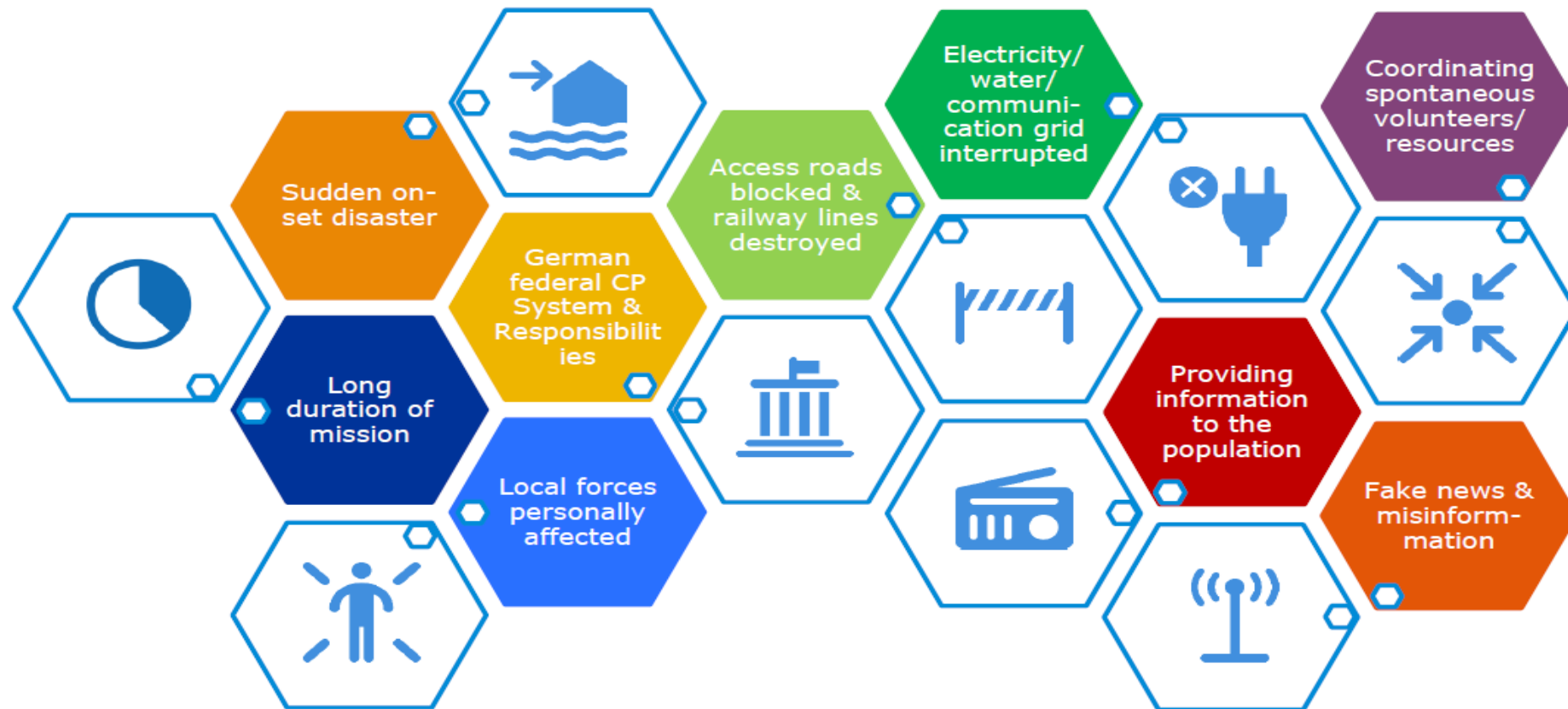


Source: BBK / Bw



Source: Bundesanstalt THW

Some identified challenges



Source: Bundesanstalt THW

Some Lessons identified

The Ministry of Interior published its report on the Flood disaster of 2021 in March 2022.

In it, the following priorities were identified:

- To strengthen civil protection (including training of crisis managers on all levels);
- To optimize structures/mechanisms of cooperation in a state of disaster;
- Climate adaptation / increased resilience;
- To strengthen warning infrastructure (e.g. cell broad cast, sirens);
- To strengthen individual resilience among the general population;
- To increase the use of digitalization for disaster response (e.g. digital situation maps);
- Direct and indirect measures for flood protection (incl. prevention);
- To review the option of a general, mandatory insurance against elementary loss.



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Thank you for your attention!

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