



IMS Office of the Gender Advisor: Climate Change, Security, and Gender Perspective

What is it?

Climate change is rarely a stand-alone factor that drives military planning or the conduct of military missions. However, climate change can aggravate or amplify existing conflict drivers and conflict vulnerabilities and therefore should be given due consideration during military assessment, planning and execution. Understanding the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks is not only a key to avoiding exacerbating vulnerabilities; but also uncovers new entry points for advancing gender equality, improving climate resilience and sustaining peace.

State Fragility, Radicalisation and Recruitment

Resource scarcity can be the root cause of conflict and can also exacerbate existing conflict. Climate induced poverty increases recruitment to armed groups as people run out of employment options, **which will increase climate vulnerabilities, leaving women and children often disproportionately affected.**

Climate migration and recruitment into foreign, armed groups enables new modus operandi to spread between regional conflict zones. **Women and girls may also join armed groups, something that traditional Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) or Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) initiatives may overlook**

"CLIMATE CHANGE HAS A MULTIPLIER EFFECT AND IS AN AGGRAVATING FACTOR FOR INSTABILITY, CONFLICT AND TERRORISM."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 2021

80%
OF PEOPLE DISPLACED BY CLIMATE CHANGE ARE WOMEN

Climate Change and Resilience

Women are more likely than men to live in poverty, which makes them less economically resilient and more "climate vulnerable". Natural disasters also contribute to a loss of livelihoods and competition over scarce resources. When building resilience through civil preparedness, capacity building and disaster response, NATO should take into account the gender perspective in order to ensure the needs of both men and women within the civilian population are taken into account

Gender Perspective

In Military Operations

A gender analysis, or a systemic examination of gender relations, of the conflict or environment is a first step in reviewing collated and evaluated information to identify significant facts for future interpretation. **Asking questions like these allow for military actors to apply a gender perspective in every situation to increase operational effect in providing security to all men, women, boys and girls.** Even in an environmental risk.

Not just asking:	Also asking:
Who is talking?	Who is listening?
Who is included?	Who participates?
What has changed?	Who is affected by the change?

An integrated, three-way approach to gender, climate change, and security is needed. This will provide the analytic foundation that will be needed for military operations that can advance all three priorities and NATO's values.