

IMS Office of the Gender Advisor: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Defence and the Gender Perspective

What is it?

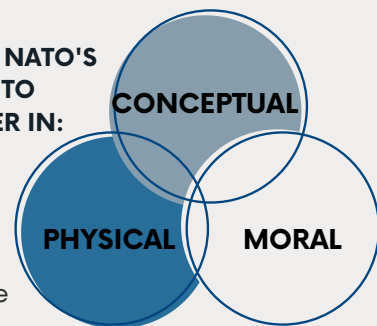
The potential use of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) materials by state and non-state actors remain a central and evolving threat to Allied security. In order for NATO to increase military readiness and support national resilience against CBRN threats, there is a need to recognise and respond appropriately to the gender-based differences in requirements for equipment, medical management, and protection, as well as training and capacity-building in regards to CBRN. For the most operational effectiveness, NATO must work to deliberately mainstream gender perspective in CBRN Defence workstrands.

The Gender Dimension

Integrating the gender perspective into CBRN Defence allows us to better understand the nature of the threat, its prevalence, distribution, determinants and consequences. Understanding the broader socio-cultural context is imperative for the effective provision of security for men, women, boys and girls. Lack of gender representation among CBRN first-responders and lack of gender-sensitive response guidance can also have a negative impact on the ability to provide timely care for vulnerable populations. Societal resilience and responses towards CBRN threats are further affected by public risk perception and communication which are influenced by gender, culture, values, attitudes and social organisation. CBRN threats combined with hostile techniques, such as the use of hybrid threats and misinformation can also be targeted by gender. Accounting for the gender and the differing needs of the entire population helps develop a more stable environment for all.

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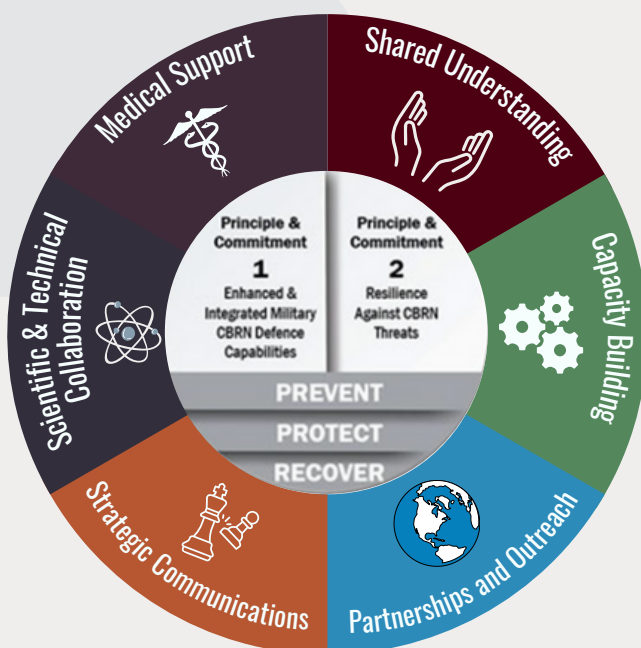
**COMPONENTS OF NATO'S
FIGHTING POWER TO
INTEGRATE GENDER IN:**



The gender perspective has a force multiplying effect when integrated in the three key components of NATO's fighting power. There is a need to mainstream the gender perspective in conceptual documents at NATO to inform the practical integration, to account for the gendered physical determinants of warfare so that forces are appropriately prepared and lastly, to integrate the gender perspective into morale to maintain the confidence of forces in their preparedness and equipment.

NATO's CBRN Defence Policy

NATO's CBRN Defence Policy is grounded by two core principle and commitments, underpinned by six strategic enablers.



NATO's Principles and Commitments for CBRN Defence

Gender is a strategically important emerging issue that can be used in CBRN defence to identify and address potential gaps in capabilities, such as in personal protective equipment, medical countermeasures, force protection, and training and capacity building. NATO views gender as a strategically important trend where our understanding is incomplete alongside of emerging and disruptive technologies and climate change. The Alliance must build understanding to strengthen and maintain our CBRN defence capabilities and to integrate them into the Alliance's deterrence and defence posture.

In line with the NATO Women, Peace and Security Policy and Action Plan, NATO will ensure that the gender perspective are appropriately mainstreamed into CBRN defence