

With support from Charles and Feralee Levin and Professor Richard J. Gilbert, CEGA proudly sponsors UC Berkeley graduate students in their research projects on international development topics.

“Household Adoption and Usage of Energy-Intensive Durables in a Development Context”

Lead Researcher: Susanna Berkouwer, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Country: Kenya

Objective: For most households, purchasing a Burn cookstove is an up-front investment that can reduce daily energy expenditures by around 60%. Yet, many households have not yet made this decision. Working with Burn Manufacturing, a firm that has sold over 250,000 cookstoves in Kenya, this project will investigate how behavioral biases affect energy spending in a developing setting.

“Governance and Reliability of Electricity Microgrids”

Lead Researcher: Andres Gonzalez Lira and Muhammed Yasir Kahn, Haas School of Business

Country: Pakistan

Objective: Access to electricity is an important factor for economic development, influencing improvements to education, health, and gender equality. This project will explore how local institutions can manage small-scale electricity grids for rural communities to prevent free-riding problems from developing, which can compromise functionality and access to local grids.

“Evaluating Effects of a Women’s Leadership Programs”

Lead Researcher: Megan Lane, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Country: Rwanda

Objective: Rwanda’s quota system requires 30% of seats at all levels of government to be held by women. However, these top-down policies do not fully address the patriarchal norms and gender discrimination that continue to limit women’s de facto power. This project examines the effect of a women’s leadership program in Rwanda on outcomes ranging from economic well-being to self-confidence and participation in community decision-making.

“Prison Reform in the Dominican Republic”

Lead Researcher: Matthew Pecenco and Carlos Schmidt Padilla, Agricultural and Resource Economics and Political Science

Country: Dominican Republic

Objective: Since 2003, the Dominican Republic has been implementing the New Model of Penitentiary Management across its 35 prisons, moving from a punitive to a more rehabilitative model. This project will look at the effects of moving to a more rehabilitative prison structure on crime rates for the formerly incarcerated and the broader population.