

Econoler

Econoler is an international consulting firm with 38 years of experience in the design, implementation, evaluation and financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and projects. Over the years, Econoler has contributed to developing and implementing about 4,000 projects in over 150 countries.

Gender and Energy

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Energy Projects

Econoler shares the vision outlined in Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose aim of “ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” will be accomplished if energy issues are assessed through a gender-sensitive lens. Issues related to energy access and climate change disadvantage women, and those inequalities are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. Econoler activities contribute to improve the well-being of women and girls living in developing countries. Through its projects, Econoler ensures specific challenges faced by women in the energy sector are addressed and involves them in all aspects of the energy value chain, as consumers, suppliers, entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

Generating Information and Knowledge on Gender Inequalities in the Energy Sector

Important data gaps hinder the capacity of the international community to properly assess and address women’s specific energy needs and consumption patterns. Econoler is committed to generating information as it gains experience in dealing with interactions between gender and energy. For instance, the firm is currently working on a research project for the International Development and Research Center to find out which EE policy decisions can help deliver energy justice to women. The project serves to examine the themes of energy justice, collects and analyzes data on rural women’s access to and use of energy and their causal links with household decision-making processes. Econoler also performs a gender-based assessment in six countries of the Pacific Region to understand what are the optimal actions the Pacific Community may implement to overcome the barriers that hinder women’s participation in the clean energy value chain.

Developing and Delivering Gender-Responsive Capacity Building Programs

Econoler develops and delivers capacity building sessions tailored to improving women’s technical and financial capacities in the sustainable energy sector. The firm also provides consultancy services to financial institutions and other stakeholders on developing internal social inclusion policies and procedures to assess the impacts of their projects on gender dynamics. In Palestine, Econoler is currently involved in developing Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) for two local banks participating in the Agence française de développement (AFD) SUNREF Program to increase their capacity to assess the environmental and social risks of projects, conduct due diligence, and adopt appropriate mitigation measures.



Sustainable Energy Strategies to Promote Energy Justice for African Women Living in Rural Off-Grid Areas

This research project, commissioned by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) is aimed at determining how EE policy can improve the socio-economic and environmental conditions of women in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) using an interdisciplinary approach combining engineering, sociology, economy, gender, and health. Key outputs include:

- Analyze the socio-economic and cultural contexts of each target country and how they affect gender equal energy access;
- Conduct a quantitative survey in Benin, Senegal and Togo to collect sex-disaggregated data on energy needs, energy consumption, and energy-related opportunities in rural areas, as well as defining the household decision-making process;
- Benchmark energy policies tailored to improving energy justice.

This project is carried out in close collaboration with local partners, stakeholders and scholars. Energy research and the field of energy will benefit from this project through the formulation of new conceptual and empirical knowledge, while the SSA region will obtain information and know-how to increase energy justice, thereby improving the socio-economic situation especially of the most vulnerable groups.



Accra Girls Senior High School Workshop on Energy Efficiency

In Ghana, energy efficiency has a strategic relevance to ensure sustainable development and enhance sustainable resilience. Econoler was hence mandated by GIZ to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of an EE strategy for municipal public buildings in Accra. This project involved strong knowledge transfer and an awareness raising component, including a training session tailored to young women. The goals of this training session were as follows:

- Introduce a group of high school girls to the importance of energy efficiency as a way of endowing them with the abilities to act as agents of change in their families and communities;
- Motivate them to pursue careers in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The workshop methodology included a mixture of classroom teaching (20%), practical activities (70%), as well as feedback and discussions (10%). The workshop covered topics such as: the basics of energy; home energy use and impacts; drivers for energy efficiency; and EE technologies. Trainees were asked to perform an energy assessment of their home and some of the school premises. The training was very successful with the trainees thereafter displaying great initiative by training their classmates who could not attend the workshop.

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