

Research Department (RES/RES) Evidence Review on the Impacts of Access to Finance for SMEs Consultant

COMPONENT 1

Post of Duty: Washington, DC

The IDB Group is a community of diverse, versatile, and passionate people who come together on a journey to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our people find purpose and do what they love in an inclusive, collaborative, agile, and rewarding environment.

About this position

The Research Department (RES) is seeking an organized consultant with the skills to assist in producing a comprehensive white paper that compiles all available causal evidence on the impacts of access to finance on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), with a particular emphasis on evidence from the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

This role requires a highly organized, detail-oriented individual capable of working closely with the IDB research team to conduct a thorough literature review and deliver a high-quality report.

The consultant will be involved in various aspects of the evidence review process, including conducting literature searches, extracting data, synthesizing findings, and drafting sections of the white paper.

The consultant will support two primary objectives: gathering valuable insights to inform the design of future impact evaluations and creating a standalone report that organizes relevant evidence and policy implications.

In this position, the consultant will collaborate closely with RES economists.

RES conducts innovative research that shapes the Bank's strategic policy agenda, advancing inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in its member countries. The Department's research provides essential input to Bank departments, governments, the academic community, and public opinion throughout the region.

What you'll do:

The consultant will help produce a comprehensive white paper that compiles all available causal evidence on the impact of access to finance on SMEs, focusing on the LAC region. Specifically, you will:

- Conduct a literature search to identify relevant studies and reports on access to finance and its impacts on SMEs.
- Synthesize findings from existing literature to highlight key trends and gaps in the evidence.
- Assist in drafting sections of the white paper, including methodology and policy implications.

- Collaborate with the IDB research team to ensure the report meets academic standards and is of practical relevance.

This review will contribute to guiding future impact evaluations and systematizing relevant evidence for external sharing.

Deliverables and Payments Timeline:

<u>Deliverable #</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Planned Date to Submit</u>
1. Detailed literature review plan	30%	March 2025
2. Preliminary literature review report	30%	May 2025
3. Final white paper and completion of this TOR	40%	August 2025

What you'll need

- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or other related fields. Master's degree preferred.
- **Experience:** At least 2 years of experience in conducting literature reviews and synthesizing research findings, preferably in development economics or finance.
- **Languages:** Proficiency in Spanish and English, spoken and written, is required. Additional knowledge of French and Portuguese is preferable.

Key skills:

- Strong research and analytical skills.
- Proficiency in literature review methodologies and tools.
- Excellent academic writing and synthesis skills.
- Ability to critically evaluate research methodologies and findings.
- Experience with bibliographic management software (e.g., Zotero, Mendeley).
- Familiarity with systematic review and meta-analysis techniques.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Learn continuously.
- Collaborate and share knowledge.
- Focus on clients.
- Communicate and influence.
- Innovate and try new things.
- Strong quantitative and analytical skills.

Requirements:

- **Citizenship:** You are a citizen of one of our 48-member countries.
- **Consanguinity:** You have no family members (up to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including spouse) working at the IDB, IDB Invest, or IDB Lab.

Type of contract and duration:

- **Type of contract:** Products and External Services Consultant (PEC), Lump Sum
- **Length of contract:** 9 months
- **Work Location:** Remote.

What we offer

The IDB group provides benefits that respond to the diverse needs and moments of an employee's life. These benefits include:

- A **competitive compensation** package.
- A flexible way of working. You will be evaluated by deliverable.

Our culture

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Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) are at the center of our organization. We celebrate all dimensions of diversity and encourage women, LGBTQ+ people, persons with disabilities, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous people to apply.

We will ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation to participate in the job interview process. If you are a qualified candidate with a disability, please e-mail us at diversity@iadb.org to request reasonable accommodation to complete this application.

Our Human Resources Team reviews every application carefully.

About the IDB Group

The IDB Group, composed of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IDB Invest, and the IDB Lab offers flexible financing solutions to its member countries to finance economic and social development through lending and grants to public and private entities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

About IDB

We work to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through financial and technical support for countries working to reduce poverty and inequality, we help improve health and education and advance infrastructure. Our aim is to achieve development in a sustainable, climate-friendly way. With a history dating back to 1959, today we are the leading source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. We provide loans, grants, and technical assistance; and we conduct extensive research. We maintain a strong commitment to achieving measurable results and the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability.

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About IDB Lab

Is the innovation laboratory of the IDB Group. We mobilize financing, knowledge, and connections to drive innovation for inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean. We believe innovation is a powerful tool that can transform our region, providing today unprecedented opportunities to populations that are vulnerable due to economic, social, or environmental factors. IDB Lab has a commitment to gender quality and diversity as part of its development mandate. The Strategy and Impact unit supports IDB Lab in the development of strategy, connections and knowledge, and impact measurement and reporting.

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https://twitter.com/IDB_Lab

About IDB Invest

IDB Invest, a member of the IDB Group, is a multilateral development bank committed to promoting the economic development of its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through the private sector. IDB Invest finances sustainable companies and projects to achieve financial results and maximize economic, social, and environmental development in the region. With a portfolio of \$14.1 billion in asset management and 325 clients in 25 countries, IDB Invest provides innovative financial solutions and advisory services that meet the needs of its clients in a variety of industries.

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Research Department (RES/RES) Data Analyst Consultant**COMPONENT 2****Post of Duty: Washington, DC**

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About this position

The Research Department (RES/RES) is seeking an organized consultant with expertise in data analysis to support the implementation of a quasi-experimental evaluation assessing the impacts of access to finance on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. This role requires a detail-oriented individual capable of collaborating closely with the IDB research team to ensure the smooth execution of project activities.

The consultant will play a key role in data cleaning, preparation, and analysis, contributing to the success of the impact evaluation. The consultant will work with administrative data from partner banks and tax authorities, as well as primary data collected through surveys, to conduct staggered difference-in-differences analysis and examine heterogeneous effects across various SME characteristics.

The consultant will collaborate closely with economists at the IDB's Research Department.

RES generates innovative research that informs the Bank's strategic policy agenda, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region. The Department's research outputs serve as valuable inputs for the Bank's departments, governments, the academic community, and public opinion throughout the region.

What you'll do:

The consultant will support the data analysis for the causal impact evaluation of access to finance SMEs in LAC. This analysis will contribute to answering key research questions, including:

- What is the impact of projects that facilitate access to finance on SMEs?
- What is the impact of different types of credit on SMEs?
- Is there any heterogeneity in impacts observed by sector, gender of the owner, or other SME baseline characteristics?

Deliverables and Payments Timeline:

Payment for this consultancy will be based upon delivery of activity reports

What you'll need

- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or other related fields. Master's degree preferred.

- **Experience:** At least 2 years of experience in applied econometric methodologies and in impact evaluation.
- **Languages:** Proficiency in Spanish and English, spoken and written, is required. Additional knowledge of French and Portuguese is preferable.

Key skills:

- Strong quantitative and analytical skills.
- Proficiency in statistical software (Stata, R, or Python).
- Experience with causal inference methods, particularly difference-in-differences.
- Excellent data management and cleaning skills.
- Strong writing and communication skills.
- Learn continuously.
- Collaborate and share knowledge.
- Focus on clients.
- Communicate and influence.
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Requirements:

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- **Consanguinity:** You have no family members (up to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including spouse) working at the IDB, IDB Invest, or IDB Lab.

Type of contract and duration:

- **Type of contract:** Products and External Services Consultant (PEC), Retainer
- **Length of contract:** 24 months
- **Work Location:** Remote.

What we offer

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About IDB Invest

IDB Invest, a member of the IDB Group, is a multilateral development bank committed to promoting the economic development of its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through the private sector. IDB Invest finances sustainable companies and projects to achieve financial results and maximize economic, social, and environmental development in the region.

With a portfolio of \$14.1 billion in asset management and 325 clients in 25 countries, IDB Invest provides innovative financial solutions and advisory services that meet the needs of its clients in a variety of industries.

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COMPONENT 2**TERMS OF REFERENCE*****Understanding the Impact of Access to Finance on SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean.*****1. Background and Justification**

- 1.1. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) comprise 99.5 percent of the businesses, 60 percent of the employed population, and about 25 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (Herrera, 2020).¹ Access to finance is one of the critical barriers for MSME growth. According to data from the SME Finance Forum³, the MSME financing gap for the LAC region is the second largest worldwide and is estimated to be US\$ 1 trillion, with 23% of formal MSMEs indicating they have unmet financing needs.
- 1.2. Although the impacts of access to finance on MSMEs have been well researched in the past, the literature has been mostly concentrated in microenterprises (Banerjee et al 2015, Blattman et al 2016, Martínez et al 2018) or in startups (Gonzalez-Uribe and Leatherbee, 2018). Less is known about the impact of access to finance on more established companies. Also, recent research is emerging looking at the impacts of different financial products (e.g. Battaglia et al. 2024).
- 1.3. The Research Department (RES) at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is collaborating with IDB Invest to evaluate the impacts of access to finance on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. A primary component of this evaluation is to document the effects of different financial products on SME growth and performance. To accomplish this, the research team requires collecting data on SMEs that have received or applied for diverse types of credit, as well as those that have not, to conduct a comprehensive impact evaluation. This data collection effort will be crucial in understanding the causal relationships between access to finance and SME outcomes, including sales, survival, exports, employment, and assets.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. *This consultancy's main objective is to execute data collection activities to support a causal impact evaluation of access to finance on SMEs. This data collection will contribute to answering key research questions, including:*
 - *What is the impact of projects that facilitate access to finance on SMEs?*
 - *What is the impact of different types of credit on SMEs?*
 - *Is there any heterogeneity in impacts observed by sector, gender of the owner, or other SME baseline characteristics?*

3. Scope of Services

- 3.1. The consulting firm will conduct data collection activities to support the impact evaluation of access to finance on SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The specific country focus is expected to be Panama, but other countries may be considered based on data availability and partnerships with financial institutions.
- 3.2. The firm's responsibilities will include:
 - Collaborating with the IDB research team to develop and implement a comprehensive data collection strategy.
 - Collecting data from a sample of SMEs using methods specified by the research team.
 - Assisting in the integration of collected data with administrative data from banks and tax authorities.
 - Implementing rigorous quality control procedures throughout the data collection process.
 - Cleaning and organizing datasets, including both raw and processed versions.
 - Providing all necessary documentation related to the data collection process, including methodologies, challenges encountered, and any deviations from the original plan.
- 3.3. The firm will be expected to maintain high standards of data quality and confidentiality throughout the project, adhering to all relevant ethical and legal guidelines for research involving human subjects.

4. Key Activities

- 4.1. The consulting firm will develop the following activities:
 - Develop a comprehensive logistics plan for data collection.
 - Design and program electronic data collection tools as required.
 - Train members of the data collection team.
 - Execute data collection activities according to the research design.
 - Implement strict data quality control measures throughout the collection process.
 - Clean and organize datasets, ensuring both raw and processed versions are maintained.
 - Prepare thorough documentation of the data collection process, detailing any challenges or deviations from the initial plan.

5. Expected Outcome and Deliverables

- 5.1. The general outcome expected from this contract is a database.
- 5.2. The deliverables corresponding to this outcome are the following:
 - Detailed data collection and quality control plan (August 1, 2025).

- Progress reports on data collection activities (monthly, starting September 1, 2025).
- Final raw and clean datasets in .dta and .Rdata formats (December 31, 2025).
- Comprehensive data dictionary and codebook (December 31, 2025).
- Technical report describing the data collection procedure, quality control measures, and any issues encountered (January 15, 2026)

6. Project Schedule and Milestones

- 6.1. Project start date: July 1, 2025
- 6.2. Submission of data collection and quality control plan: August 1, 2025
- 6.3. Training of data collection team: August 15-31, 2025
- 6.4. Data collection period: September 1 - November 30, 2025
- 6.5. Data cleaning and preparation of final datasets: December 1-31, 2025
- 6.6. Submission of final report: January 15, 2026

All deliverables must be received by January 15, 2026

7. Reporting Requirements

- 7.1 Weekly progress updates to the IDB research team during the data collection period.
- 7.2 Monthly written progress reports.
- 7.3 Final technical report detailing all aspects of the data collection process.

8. Acceptance Criteria

- 8.1. All datasets and reports must be validated and approved by the IDB research team

9. Supervision and Reporting

- 9.1. The consulting firm will report to the Lead Specialist from RES overseeing the Technical Cooperation (TC) implementation. The IDB team will provide guidance, monitor progress, and approve deliverables.

10. Schedule of Payments

- 10.1. Payment terms will be based on project milestones or deliverables. The Bank does not expect to make advance payments under consulting contracts unless a significant amount of travel is required. The Bank wishes to receive the most competitive cost proposal for the services described herein.
- 10.2. The IDB Official Exchange Rate indicated in the RFP will be applied for necessary conversions of local currency payments.

Payment Schedule

HRD Terms of Reference

ANNEX A

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>%</i>
1. <i>Data collection and quality control plan</i>	30%
2. <i>Final Datasets</i>	35%
3. <i>Final Report and completion of this TOR</i>	35%
4. TOTAL	100%

Research Department (RES/RES) Capacity building specialist consultant**COMPONENT 3****Post of Duty: Washington, DC**

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About this position

The Research Department (RES) is seeking a skilled consultant to lead capacity-building initiatives focused on impact measurement for financial institutions across the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. The ideal candidate will be highly organized, detail-oriented, and capable of collaborating with partner financial institutions and the IDB research team to strengthen their impact measurement frameworks.

The consultant will be responsible for a range of key tasks, including evaluating current data practices, identifying gaps, defining impact indicators, and creating impact dashboards. You will support the two main objectives of this initiative: enhancing impact measurement capabilities in a selected financial institution and facilitating data-sharing agreements to enable future impact evaluations. This work will be instrumental in establishing effective impact measurement systems within financial institutions, providing critical data to assess how access to finance affects small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the LAC region.

In this role, the consultant will collaborate closely with economists at the Research Department of the IDB.

The Research Department drives innovative research that informs the Bank's strategic policy agenda and supports inclusive, sustainable economic and social development across its member countries. The Department's research outputs serve as valuable inputs for the Bank's departments, governments, the academic community, and public opinion throughout the region.

What you'll do:

The consultant will support the development of impact measurement capacities in a financial institution in LAC. Specifically, you will:

- Assess existing data collection practices in partner financial institutions to identify data suitable for impact evaluation.
- Identify data gaps and propose solutions to enhance impact measurement capabilities.
- Assist in defining impact indicators and developing questionnaires for data collection across all or a sample of the institutions' portfolios.
- Provide guidance on the design of technology platforms or offer IT advice to integrate data collection processes into existing systems.
- Develop impact dashboards for visualizing and reporting impacts.

HRD Terms of Reference

ANNEX A

- Facilitate agreements with supported institutions for data sharing with the research team.
- Collaborate with the IDB research team to ensure alignment with broader project objectives.

Deliverables and Payments Timeline:

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Planned Date to Submit</u>
1. Initial Assessment Report	25%	May 2025
2. Impact Measurement Framework	25%	October 2025
3. Technology Integration Plan	25%	January 2026
4. Impact Dashboards and Final Report	25%	April 2026

What you'll need

- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or other related fields. Master's degree preferred.
- **Experience:** At least 5 years of experience in impact evaluation or data analytics in the financial sector.
- **Languages:** Proficiency in Spanish and English, spoken and written, is required. Additional knowledge of French and Portuguese is preferable.

Key skills:

- Impact evaluation methodologies
- Data management and analysis
- Financial sector knowledge
- Dashboard development
- Strong communication skills

Requirements:

- **Citizenship:** You are a citizen of one of our 48-member countries.
- **Consanguinity:** You have no family members (up to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including spouse) working at the IDB, IDB Invest, or IDB Lab.

Type of contract and duration:

- **Type of contract:** Products and External Services Consultant (PEC), Lump Sum
- **Length of contract:** 12 months.
- **Work Location:** Remote.

What we offer

The IDB group provides benefits that respond to the different needs and moments of an employee's life. These benefits include:

- A **competitive compensation** package.
- A flexible way of working. You will be evaluated by deliverable.

Our culture

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Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) are at the center of our organization. We celebrate all dimensions of diversity and encourage women, LGBTQ+ people, persons with disabilities, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous people to apply.

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About IDB Invest

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Research Department (RES/RES) Communication and Dissemination Consultant**COMPONENT 4****Post of Duty: Washington, DC**

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About this position

The Research Department (RES) is seeking a skilled communications consultant to lead the dissemination of findings from our impact evaluation and evidence review on access to finance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. This role requires a creative, detail-oriented individual who can work closely with the IDB research team to ensure that our results reach a wide audience effectively.

The consultant will be instrumental in developing and executing a comprehensive dissemination strategy, which includes creating engaging content for various platforms, organizing events, and fostering relationships with key stakeholders.

The consultant will support two main objectives: sharing valuable insights with a broad audience and encouraging the application of our findings in policy and practice throughout the region.

RES generates innovative research that informs the Bank's strategic policy agenda and advances inclusive, sustainable economic and social development in the region. The Department's research outputs serve as key inputs for the Bank's departments, governments, the academic community, and public opinion across the region.

What you'll do:

The consultant will be responsible for the broad dissemination of results from the impact evaluation and evidence review on access to finance for SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as key lessons learned from the capacity-building initiatives. Specifically, you will:

- Develop a comprehensive dissemination strategy targeting various stakeholders in the LAC region.
- Create engaging content for different platforms, including blogs, social media posts, and video scripts.
- Organize and facilitate in-person and virtual events to share project findings and insights.
- Collaborate with the research team to translate technical findings into accessible language for diverse audiences.
- Develop relationships with media outlets and relevant organizations to amplify the reach of dissemination efforts.

Deliverables and Payments Timeline

<u>Deliverable #</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Planned Date to Submit</u>
1. Comprehensive dissemination strategy	20%	
2. First set of dissemination materials	20%	
3. Midterm report on dissemination activities	30%	
4. Final set of dissemination materials and comprehensive report on all dissemination activities and completion of this TOR	30%	

What you'll need

- **Education:** Master's degree in communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or related field.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 5 years of experience in science communication, preferably in economics, finance, or development-related fields.
- **Languages:** Proficiency in Spanish and English, spoken and written, is required. Additional knowledge of French and Portuguese is preferable.

Key skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience in creating multimedia content (blogs, videos, infographics)
- Strong understanding of social media platforms and best practices
- Event planning and facilitation skills
- Ability to translate complex research findings into accessible language
- Experience in stakeholder engagement and relationship building
- Familiarity with economic development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Learn continuously
- Collaborate and share knowledge
- Focus on clients
- Communicate and influence
- Innovate and try new things

Requirements:

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Type of contract and duration:

- **Type of contract:** Products and External Services Consultant (PEC), Lump Sum

- **Length of contract:** 12 months
- **Work Location:** Remote.

What we offer+

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