

Secured Transaction **Reform: Potential** & advances in its implementation



On August 2071; 2013 the President of Colombia enacted the law 1676 which laid the basis for the use of movable assets as collateral to secure oredit. Firstly, it established a unified-online-registry for all movable assets used as collateral. This registry should enable potential creditors to verify whether the good they are being offered as collateral is subject to other obligations. Secondly, the law eases enforceability processes of movable collateral in case of default.

This document presents the preliminary esuits of the exploratory phase of the Secured Transaction Reform impact evaluation; the degree to which the inability to use movable accests as collateral seem to limit firms' access to credit; Financial institutions' (Fi) expectations on the utility of the new regulation; and the use of the registry since its launch, since February 24th, through September 30th, 2014.

SMES' ACCESS TO FORMAL FINANCE

Eighty percent of the 1,125 SMEs surveyed by IPA between late 2013 and early 2014 (before the reform came into place) had a ban from a formal financial institution at some point during their existence. Of the 20% of firms which had never used external finance at the moment of the survey, 54% had never applied for a credit.



Figure 1. Loan application in 2012, % of firms In 2012 alone, 66% of the firms applied for at least one loan or line of credit. Out of these, 89% were granted at least one application and 24% were denied at least one application (Figure 1).

> Fifty percent of the firms surveyed consider that the limited access to credit constitutes an extremely important or important problem for their business operation(Figure 2).

* This twe stigstion was requested by the international Finance Corporation (#C) and supported by the United States Agency for international Development (USAID) and State Secretarist for Bonamic Affairs of Seclarismd 197004



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March 25, 2015