

**EXECUTIVE  
BOARD  
MEETING**

EBS/20/82

April 28, 2020

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **Cameroon—Requests for Disbursement Under the Rapid Credit Facility, Extension of the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement, and Rephasing of Access**

Board Action:	Executive Directors' <b>consideration</b> (Formal)
Tentative Board Date:	<b>Monday, May 4, 2020</b>
Proposed Decisions:	Page 12
Publication:	Yes*
Questions:	Mr. Sy, AFR (ext. 38651)
Document Transmittal in the Absence of an Objection and in accordance with Board policy:	After Board Consideration—African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Trade Organization

\*The authorities have indicated that they consent to the Fund's publication of this paper.





# CAMEROON

April 28, 2020

## REQUESTS FOR DISBURSEMENT UNDER THE RAPID CREDIT FACILITY, EXTENSION OF THE EXTENDED CREDIT FACILITY ARRANGEMENT, AND REPHASING OF ACCESS

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Context.** Cameroon is facing urgent financing needs driven by the twin Covid-19 pandemic and terms of trade shocks. Externally, Cameroon is exposed to demand and supply shocks due to the slowdown in major trading partners (China and Europe) and falling oil prices. Domestically, containment efforts to slow the number of Covid-19 cases, which have grown rapidly since March 6, 2020, are expected to further slow growth and widen the fiscal and current account deficits.

**Request for Fund Support.** Given limited buffers and urgent balance of payments needs due to the pandemic, the authorities are requesting financial assistance under the “exogenous shocks window” of the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) equivalent to 60 percent of quota (SDR 165.6 million), provided that the Executive Board also approves the request for an extension of the ECF arrangement, due to expire on June 25, 2020, to September 30, 2020 with a rephasing of access.”

**Macroeconomic Policies and IMF Engagement.** The authorities’ immediate priority is to boost health and social protection spending and use counter-cyclical fiscal policy measures to limit the spread of the disease in Cameroon and its humanitarian, economic and financial impact. The government’s preparedness and response plan envisages scaling up health spending to ensure infection prevention and control, improve case management, upgrade health facilities, train and increase health personnel. The funds linked to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic will be subject to the strict application of budgetary procedures and controls, including audits. Cameroon remains committed to its medium-term reform agenda and the authorities expressed their interest in a successor arrangement following completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> and final ECF Review.

Approved By  
**David Owen (AFR)**  
 and **Ashvin Ahuja**  
**(SPR)**

An IMF team consisting of Mr. Sy (Head), Messrs. Benlamine and Tintchev (all AFR), Mr. Blache (MCM), Mr. Arnoud (FAD), Ms. Schauer (SPR), Messrs. Nsengiyumva (Resident Representative), and Mr. Tchakote (local economist) exchanged information and held discussions with the authorities by video conferences on April 16, 2020.

## CONTENTS

<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PRE-COVID-19 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>POLICY ISSUES</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FUND SUPPORT UNDER THE RAPID CREDIT FACILITY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>STAFF APPRAISAL</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TABLES</b>	
1. Selected Economic and Financial Indicators, 2018–25	13
2a. Central Government Operations, 2018–25 (CFAF billion)	14
2b. Central Government Operations, 2018–25 (In percent of GDP)	15
3. Balance of Payments, 2018–25	16
4. Monetary Survey, 2018–25	17
5. Indicators of Capacity to Repay the Fund, 2020–33	18
6a. Original Schedule of Disbursements Under the ECF Arrangement, 2017–20	19
6b. Proposed New Schedule of Disbursements Under the ECF Arrangement, 2017–20	19
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
I. Letter of Intent	20

## BACKGROUND

**1. The Covid-19 pandemic creates urgent BOP and fiscal needs and the authorities have requested the Fund's financial assistance through the RCF.** The authorities' immediate priority is to boost health and social protection spending and use counter-cyclical fiscal policy to limit the spread of the disease in Cameroon and its humanitarian, economic, and financial impact. The government's preparedness and response plan envisages scaling up health spending to ensure infection prevention and control, improve case management, upgrade health facilities, train and increase health personnel. The government is committed to prevent a collapse in revenue collection through various measures. Measures to mitigate the negative financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the private sector are also being considered, including strengthening social safety nets, subsidizing basic medications, and providing support to affected companies.

## PRE-COVID-19 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

**2. The pandemic shock hit as the authorities were seeking to strengthen fiscal and external buffers and manage risks to the economy (Country Report No 20/48).** Growth in 2020-22 was expected to remain relatively stable after declining to 3.9 percent in 2019. The authorities were encouraged to broaden the non-oil revenue base and to urgently address systemic financial and fiscal risks associated with the state-owned oil refinery (SONARA), including by reprofiling its bank debt. Continued fiscal consolidation and efforts to repatriate export proceeds were expected to help strengthen buffers over the medium-term. These efforts were also needed to stabilize and then reverse the public debt trajectory and maintain debt service at sustainable levels. The external risks that could have affected growth were related primarily to uncertainty from international trade tensions, slower global growth, and the persistent volatility of commodity prices. Domestically, a further deterioration of the security situation in the two Anglophone regions could have undermined the fiscal consolidation efforts underway and the implementation of reforms. Nevertheless, the non-oil sector was set to remain strong and help mitigate the negative impact of some shocks.

## IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**3. Cameroon is already feeling a severe impact from the Covid-19 pandemic, which will slow economic growth in 2020 (Text Table 1).** GDP growth is projected to fall sharply to -1.2 percent or about 5 ppt below the pre-pandemic projection. The pandemic has led to a substantial deterioration in the global economic environment, reflecting a combination of global supply and demand shocks. On top of the large expected spillovers from the external shock to Cameroon, the country is facing a rapid increase of the number of infected persons. The pandemic is expected to create further disruptions in production factors (both capital and labor), as well as a credit retrenchment and economic losses from fatalities and adverse confidence effects. While an agreement with regards to reprofiling SONARA's domestic bank debt has become more likely with

the introduction of a new price structure, further delays would pose a risk to the capital and liquidity situation of banks.

**Text Table 1. Cameroon: Selected Economic Indicators**  
(percent change yoy, unless otherwise indicated)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Real GDP</b>					
Before Shock	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.5	5.0
After Shock	-1.2	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.0
<b>Total Revenue</b>					
Before Shock	-1.8	6.9	5.5	5.0	6.7
After Shock	-14.9	14.5	5.7	5.8	7.3
<b>Current Expenditure</b>					
Before Shock	-2.3	3.9	3.6	4.5	6.3
After Shock 1/	0.1	-0.6	3.7	4.8	5.3
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>					
Before Shock	4.7	5.1	6.0	5.8	7.1
After Shock	0.1	9.9	1.5	5.7	6.5
<b>Fiscal Deficit (payment order basis, incl. grants)</b>					
Before Shock	-1.2	-18.0	-5.0	4.8	7.4
After Shock	90.2	-34.9	-12.6	0.8	-4.2
<b>Fiscal Deficit (cash basis, incl. grants)</b>					
Before Shock	-12.9	-23.7	-8.5	3.2	6.8
After Shock	68.9	-27.9	-19.1	-3.6	-9.8
<b>Public Debt</b>					
Before Shock	5.8	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.2
After Shock	10.8	6.2	5.2	4.9	4.4
<b>Current Account Deficit</b>					
Before Shock	5.1	0.3	3.7	4.5	1.9
After Shock	53.5	-13.5	-14.0	-1.6	-2.7
<b>Export of Goods</b>					
Before Shock	1.7	-1.2	-0.5	1.1	2.2
After Shock	-26.6	11.4	6.1	5.8	5.8
<b>Import of Goods</b>					
Before Shock	4.2	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.1
After Shock	-11.0	6.5	4.9	5.0	5.1
<b>Memorandum items:</b>	<i>(percent of GDP, unless otherwise indicated)</i>				
<b>Overall balance (payment order basis, incl. grants)</b>					
Before Shock	-2.1	-1.7	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
After Shock	-4.5	-2.7	-2.2	-2.1	-1.9
<b>Overall balance (cash basis, incl. grants)</b>					
Before Shock	-2.6	-1.9	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
After Shock	-5.0	-3.4	-2.6	-2.3	-2.0
<b>Nominal GDP (Billions CFAF)</b>					
Before Shock	24,022	25,370	26,857	28,497	30,378
After Shock	22,615	24,181	25,706	27,300	29,142

Source: Cameroonian authorities and IMF staff estimates  
1/ The decline in current expenditure is partly driven by lower fuel subsidies due to the decline in the international oil price, which partly offsets the increase in health spending and other subsidies and transfers.

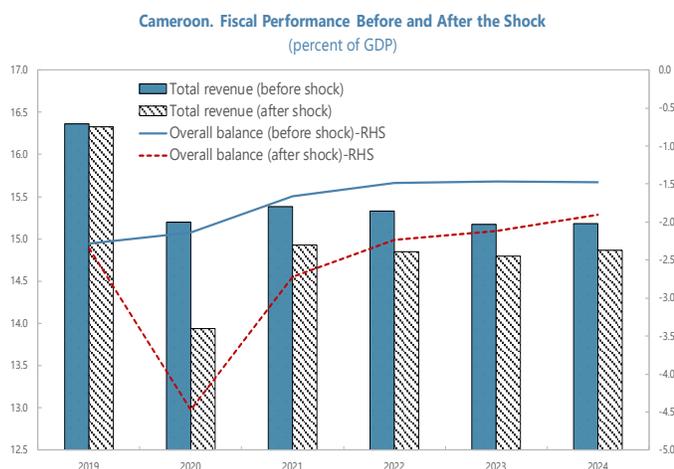
**4. The Covid-19 pandemic has given rise to an urgent BOP need as the external accounts are severely affected through a range of channels.** The resulting BOP financing need is assessed to be some CFAF 628 billion, 2.8 percent of GDP (see Text Table 2). As a result of the pandemic shock, a strong decline in growth of main trading partners coupled with a broad-based commodity price collapse are expected to worsen Cameroon's trade balance further. With Europe and Asia making up more than 80 percent of Cameroon's foreign demand for goods and price declines in Cameroon's key commodities such as crude oil, natural gas and cocoa, the slump in exports is expected to far outweigh any contraction in imports due to slowing domestic demand. Furthermore, imports related to health expenditure will likely increase. While the primary income account is expected to improve due to lower repatriated profits in the oil sector, inflows of remittances (1.6 percent of GDP in 2018) would likely weaken as has happened in previous global crises. With global

financial conditions tightening and high uncertainty about the shock and its impact depressing investment sentiment, FDI and short-term capital flows are also expected to take a hit.

**5. The increase in 2020 fiscal financing needs related to the pandemic are estimated at CFAF 497 billion (2.2 percent of GDP).**

The overall 2020 fiscal deficit (cash basis) will deteriorate to 5 percent of GDP, from 2.8 percent of GDP in the pre-virus baseline (Text Table 1). This reflects lower oil revenue (0.7 percent of GDP) and non-oil revenues (0.6 percent of GDP) due to the decline in oil exports and domestic activity, respectively. The package of containment measures (social distancing and partial confinement) is expected to severely hit growth in individual sectors, in particular agriculture, commerce, construction, manufacturing, restaurants and hotels, transportation, and tourism.

Revenues are projected to drop by about 14 percent relative to the pre-virus baseline, particularly international trade taxes and customs duties, direct taxes and VAT. To mitigate the severity of the shock, the authorities are considering allowing companies to defer payments of tax penalties and granting a tax moratorium to companies facing extreme and clear difficulties.



Cameroonian authorities and IMF staff estimates.

**6. On the expenditure side, savings from lower oil import prices partly offset an increase in crisis-related costs.** The decline in international oil prices will create room to reduce fuel subsidies by an estimated 0.5 percent of GDP and partly offset the increase in other current expenditures, which will rise by 0.8 percent of GDP, driven by health and social spending. Under the WEO oil price assumptions, 2020 non-tax revenue could outperform by at least CFAF 20 billion (0.1 percent of GDP) as the price of imported refined oil (including taxes, margin, and fees) falls below the fixed pump price. However, Staff did not include this possible windfall in its projections given the increased oil price volatility. The authorities are also considering subsidies to mitigate the burden on affected businesses. They plan to press on with the 2020 drawing plan on committed external project loans to avoid any contractionary impact on growth.

**Text Table 2. Cameroon: COVID-19 Financing Needs in 2020**

Fiscal financing need in 2020			External financing need in 2020		
	CFAF billions	Percent of GDP		CFAF billions	Percent of GDP
<b>Total revenue and grants</b>	<b>3,152</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>Current account balance</b>	<b>-1,280</b>	<b>-5.7</b>
Oil sector revenue	267	1.2	Trade balance	-765	-3.4
Non-oil sector revenue	2,784	12.3	Exports, goods	2,229	9.9
Total grants	101	0.4	Oil exports	654	2.9
			Non-oil exports	1,575	7.0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>4,162</b>	<b>18.4</b>	Imports	-2,994	-13.2
<b>Current expenditure</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>12.1</b>	Services (net)	-415	-1.8
Wages and salaries	1,064	4.7	Income (net)	-367	-1.6
Goods and services	821	3.6	Transfers (net)	267	1.2
Subsidies and transfers	627	2.8			
Interest	220	1.0	<b>Capital and financial account balance</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>6.3</b>	Capital account	28	0.1
			Financial account	588	2.6
<b>Overall balance (payment order basis)</b>	<b>-1,010</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>Overall balance</b>	<b>-664</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
<b>Overall balance (cash basis)</b>	<b>-1,127</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>Overall balance before shock (5th review)</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Overall balance (cash basis) before shock (5th review)</b>	<b>-630</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>Increase in 2019 BEAC GFA (vis-à-vis 5th review) 2/</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Projected increase in financing needs</b>	<b>-497</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>Projected increase in financing needs</b>	<b>-628</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
<b>Financing</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>Financing</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>2.8</b>
External financing (increase +)	-25	-0.1	Increase in non-IMF budget support (AfDB) 1/	53	0.2
Deposit accumulation (increase -)	60	0.3	Prospective exceptional financing	410	1.8
Increase in non-IMF budget support (AfDB) 1/	53	0.2	IMF-RCF	136	0.6
Prospective exceptional financing	410	1.8	Non-IMF	274	1.2
IMF-RCF	136	0.6	BEAC Gross Foreign Assets (increase -)	165	0.7
Non-IMF	274	1.2			

Sources: Cameroon authorities; and staff calculations.

1/ The disbursement of the AfDB budget support loan was moved from 2019 to early 2020.

2/ The actual 2019 BEAC gross foreign assets (GFA) turned out higher than the 5th review projection by CFAF 35 billion

**7. Budget support through the proposed RCF will cover less than a third of the financing needs and is expected to catalyze additional support from IFIs.** The proposed access of 60 percent of quota (CFAF 136 billion) represents 33 percent of the estimated residual external financing gap of CFAF 410 billion, after taking into account a projected slight drop in external disbursements (CFAF 25 billion), a decumulation of government deposits at the BEAC of CFAF 60 billion, and a shift of some budget support from 2019 to 2020 in the amount of CFAF 53 billion (Text Table 2). On the external side, the BEAC gross foreign assets are projected to decline by CFAF 165 billion (US \$280 million) compared to projections at the 5<sup>th</sup> review. The authorities are also expected to receive additional support from other donors (World Bank, AfDB, France, BCEAC) which should fill some of the remaining needs (CFAF 274 billion). Cameroon could also unlock potential financing by taking advantage of its eligibility to the G20 debt moratorium. Any remaining needs would need to be covered through policy adjustment.

**8. Downside external and domestic risks to the baseline are relatively high.** The global outlook (G-RAM) accounts for several downside external risks including a more severe Covid-19 pandemic causing widespread and prolonged disruptions to economic activity both directly, through global trade and supply chain spillovers, and via confidence effects on financial markets and

investment. The global economic outlook is grounded on the temporary nature of the pandemic and the beginning of a recovery from the second half of 2020. Additionally, large swings in energy prices constitute an increased source of risks, especially with uncertainty in the OPEC+ alliance. Domestically, a significant expansion of the local outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic or a more persistent impact of the shock, could have sizeable effects on Cameroon, inflicting casualties and sharper fall of economic growth, with sizeable additional financing needs. Socio-political tensions as well as fiscal, financial and debt sustainability risks related to SOEs such as a failure to turnaround SONARA's performance, could curtail the authorities' ability to accommodate a local outbreak of the pandemic. If downside risks materialize, the authorities would likely need to identify additional measures to ensure that debt is sustainable.

## POLICY ISSUES

*The authorities' immediate priority is to stop the expansion of the pandemic and limit its humanitarian, economic, and financial impact. Beyond this short-term objective, the government remains committed to its medium-term reform agenda after the crisis passes.*

### **9. The government of Cameroon is taking steps to limit the spread of the pandemic and alleviate its socio-economic impact.**

- A Preparedness and Response Plan envisages increased health spending to ensure adequate infection prevention and control and improved case management. The plan aims to (i) strengthen epidemiological surveillance through mass screening; (ii) improve the provision of medical care to positive cases by upgrading hospitals' technical capacities and supply of medications; (iii) mitigate the community spread of Covid-19 through social distancing; (iv) improve the coordination of Covid-19 measures. The plan's total cost is estimated at CFAF 58 billion (text table below).
- Measures to mitigate the negative financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable include strengthening existing social safety nets and providing support to affected businesses and households. The measures will be spelled out in a global response plan that is currently under preparation.

**Text Table 3. Cameroon: Preparation and Response Plan to COVID-19, 2020**  
(Summary of budgetary impact)

<b>Operational Axes</b>	<b>Cost (CFAF billion)</b>
Active case finding	17.4
Management of confirmed cases	34.0
Social regulation	5.5
Governance and accountability	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.3</b>

**10. The authorities intend to mitigate the significant revenue loss in 2020 from the Covid-19 pandemic.** Although the expected bounce-back of economic activity in 2021 will help, the government is committed to support work on tax and customs administrations in order to limit revenue losses and support hard-hit taxpayers, notably by:

- Facilitating e-filing and payment obligations by expanding on-line/web services to taxpayers;
- Offering extended payment arrangements to enterprises that are experiencing cash flow problems;
- Establishing “mobile payment” options for tax and non-tax payments;
- Ensuring continuity of trade processing and sufficient on-site presence/control by customs to protect revenue and the borders;
- Designing and implementing simplified and (very) quick release procedures to clear goods deemed necessary for immediate critical needs;
- Strengthening in 2021 the collection of deferred tax penalties and payments under moratorium from 2020 by signing and enforcing a protocol specifying the deadlines by which payments will have to be made.

**11. The regional central bank (BEAC) Monetary Policy Committee (CPM) recently announced a package of monetary easing measures:** The BEAC loosened its monetary policy stance, narrowed its interest rate corridor, increased its liquidity provision, and widened the range of private financial instruments accepted as collateral for monetary policy operations. The CPM also encouraged BEAC’s management to propose to its Board a reduction in haircuts applicable to public securities and private instruments accepted as collateral for refinancing operations, and to postpone by one year principal repayment of consolidated central bank’s credits to member states. Likewise, the CPM recalled that the BEAC made available to the Development Bank of the Central African States (BDEAC) a financing line of FCFA 90 billion to finance public investment projects and invited

the latter to make use of it. The CPM also recommended that banks ensure continuity of financial services, including provision of cash through ATMs, strengthen operations of remote banking and reduce banking services costs. The banking association of Cameroon has also taken the initiative for banks to maintain short term credits to the real economy but expects that the government will not increase domestic arrears.

**12. The government is considering measures to manage the medium-term impact of the twin pandemic and terms of trade shocks.** Following the Covid-19 shock, Cameroon has accumulated a small amount of arrears to official and private creditors. The authorities have cleared these arrears. They are actively considering the G20 moratorium on bilateral government loan repayments for lower income countries to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, which could alleviate debt service by up to CFAF100 billion in 2020. They are in discussion with the World Bank about the doubling of its budgetary support to USD200 million. The authorities are actively seeking concessional financing from development partners and are committed to avoid new non-concessional borrowing. Allowing for new non-concessional borrowing (NCB) would further weaken already compromised debt sustainability, go against the authorities' interest and undermine their efforts to secure the international community's support in an environment in which the G-20 just agreed on debt service suspension on bilateral government loans for low-income countries. The authorities have identified so far about CFAF229 billion of expected financing from development partners (World Bank, AfDB, France, and BDEAC). Efforts to accelerate export diversification while maintaining debt sustainability are also being continued through a range of initiatives with financial and technical support from the World Bank and the EU.

## FUND SUPPORT UNDER THE RAPID CREDIT FACILITY

**13. Cameroon meets the eligibility requirements for support under the RCF as:**

- Discussions on the sixth review under the ECF and reaching new understandings with the authorities will take additional time given the current uncertainty regarding the duration and scale of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on partial and preliminary data at least half of the performance criteria and indicative targets for end-December 2019 (test date) have been missed. Given that it is not feasible to complete the last (sixth) review by the expiration of the current arrangement on June 25, 2020, the authorities are requesting that the ECF arrangement be extended to end-September 2020, and the availability date for the sixth review (seventh disbursement) under the ECF arrangement be moved from May 31, 2020 to July 25, 2020. This would allow for an RCF request of 60 percent of quota within the normal PRGT access limits. Given the expected delay in concluding the sixth review and the urgency of BOP needs, support under the RCF is warranted. Cameroon meets the criteria for support under the RCF as it has urgent balance of payments needs that, if not addressed would result in an immediate and severe disruption; the BOP needs are not caused by a withdrawal of donors; and Cameroon lacks capacity to implement a upper credit tranche (UCT) program owing to the urgent nature of its BOP needs.

- Cameroon is assessed at high risk of debt distress; however debt remains sustainable. The DSA, dated February 2020, showed debt to be sustainable and the updated DSA, incorporating the Covid-19 pandemic shock, suggests that while risks have increased it continues to remain sustainable conditioned on the availability of concessional resources and avoidance of additional NCB (see Annex I).
- Cameroon's capacity to repay the Fund remains strong. A disbursement of 60 percent of quota would result in Fund exposure to Cameroon of 2.3 percent of GDP in 2020 (Table 5). Annual repayments will remain below 0.4 percent of GDP over the 2020-34 period and should peak at 0.3 percent of GDP and 2.1 percent of government revenue in 2026.
- Staff has confidence that the authorities will cooperate with the Fund and pursue economic policies appropriate for addressing the impact of the virus, based on the country's track record of economic policies and relations with the Fund. The authorities have committed to ensure that the financial assistance received will be subject to the application of budgetary procedures and controls, including audits in strict compliance with the provisions of the Law on the Code for Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management in Cameroon and the Law on the Financial Regime for the Government and Other Public Entities, all enacted in July 2018 under the ECF-supported program.
- Cameroon has an existing ECF arrangement approved on June 26, 2017, with an access level of 175 percent of quota. Access of 60 percent of quota, together with a rephrasing of the availability date of the final 20 percent of quota disbursement of the sixth and final review beyond July 25, 2020, would place Cameroon at 100 percent of quota annual access normal limit and below 300 percent of the cumulative three years limit.

**14. Resources will be channeled to the Treasury by the BEAC.** RCF disbursements will be disbursed to the BEAC and be on-lent to the government to provide urgent budgetary financing. The BEAC has implemented most recommendations from the 2017 safeguards assessment. In particular, the alignment of the BEAC's secondary legal instruments with its Charter was recently concluded, and work is advancing as planned on the full transition to IFRS for FY 2019.

## STAFF APPRAISAL

**15. Cameroon is being adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.** Externally, Cameroon is exposed to demand and supply shocks due to the slowdown of major trading partners (China and Europe) and falling commodity prices. Domestically, containment efforts to slow the number of Covid-19 cases, which have increased rapidly since March 6, 2020, are expected to further slow growth and widen the fiscal and balance of payment deficits. The health system is weak and unprepared to face a major outbreak.

**16. Urgent financing needs are emerging as a consequence of the pandemic and the deterioration of terms of trade.** The Covid-19-related financing needs in 2020 are estimated at

CFAF 497 billion (2.2 percent of GDP). After taking into account already secured financing and some drawdown of government deposits at the BEAC, the residual needs should reach CFAF 410 billion (1.8 percent of GDP).

**17. Staff supports the authorities' priorities to mitigate the humanitarian and economic impact of the pandemic.** Staff welcomes the government's resolve to implement its preparedness and response plan against the pandemic, with technical and financial support from its development partners. Efforts to prevent a collapse in revenue collection through various measures should be scaled up and measures to mitigate the negative financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the private sector, which could include strengthening social safety nets, subsidizing basic medications, and providing support to affected companies should be effectively implemented.

**18. Given limited buffers, staff supports the authorities' request for financial assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) equivalent to 60 percent of quota (SDR 165.6 million or 0.6 percent of GDP), extension of the arrangement and rephasing of access.** The funds will be provided to the government under the RCF exogenous shock window in the form of budget support to help close the BoP financing gap. Staff assesses that Cameroon meets the eligibility requirements for the RCF. Public debt is sustainable—contingent on identifying sufficient concessional resources to close the identified financing gaps and avoiding additional NCB—and there is adequate capacity to repay the Fund. Staff supports the authorities' request for extension of the arrangement under the ECF with rephasing of access, which would provide sufficient time to conclude the discussions and complete the sixth and final review when conditions return to normal.

## Proposed Decisions

The following decisions, which may be adopted by a majority of the votes cast, are proposed for adoption by the Executive Board. Decision 2 is proposed for adoption only if Decision 1 is adopted by the Executive Board.

### Decision 1: Extension of the ECF Arrangement and Rephrasing of Access

1. The letter dated April 28, 2020 from the Minister of Finance (the "April 2020 Letter") shall be attached to the ECF Arrangement, and the letter dated June 16, 2017 from the Prime Minister and Head of Government, together with its attachments, as supplemented and modified, shall be read as further supplemented and modified by the April 2020 Letter.
2. Accordingly, the ECF arrangement for Cameroon shall be amended as follows:
  - a. In the preamble, the words "three-year arrangement" shall be replaced with "arrangement" and the words "three-year period of the arrangement" shall be replaced with "period of the arrangement".
  - b. Paragraph 1(a) of the ECF Arrangement shall be amended by replacing the reference to "For a period of three years from the date of approval of this arrangement" with "For a period from the date of approval of this arrangement until September 30, 2020".
  - c. Paragraph 2(g) of the ECF Arrangement shall be amended by replacing the reference to "May 31, 2020" with "July 25, 2020".

### Decision 2: Request for Disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility

1. Cameroon has requested a loan disbursement in an amount equivalent to SDR 165.6 million (60 percent of quota) under the Rapid Credit Facility of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.
2. The Fund notes the intentions of Cameroon as set forth in the letter from the Minister of Finance, dated April 28, 2020, and approves the disbursement in accordance with the request.

**Table 1. Cameroon: Selected Economic and Financial Indicators, 2018–25**  
(CFAF billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2018	2019		2020		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		5th Rev.	Proj.	5th Rev.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.
(Annual percentage change, unless otherwise indicated)										
<b>National account and prices</b>										
GDP at constant prices	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.8	-1.2	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.2
Oil GDP at constant prices	-2.7	6.0	4.3	0.5	-5.4	1.0	-4.2	-6.3	-6.6	-5.7
Non-Oil GDP at constant prices	4.4	3.8	3.7	4.0	-1.0	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.5	5.6
GDP deflator	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	0.9	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7
Nominal GDP (at market prices, CFAF billions)	21,493	22,714	22,690	24,022	22,615	24,181	25,706	27,300	29,142	31,196
Oil	1,000	959	937	903	514	552	583	547	500	471
Non-Oil	20,493	21,755	21,753	23,118	22,101	23,628	25,123	26,753	28,642	30,725
Consumer prices (average)	1.1	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Consumer prices (eop)	2.0	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>External trade</b>										
Export volume	-0.9	4.1	3.8	4.1	-4.0	8.5	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.6
Oil sector	-16.7	16.5	14.8	0.5	-5.7	1.6	-4.2	-6.3	-6.6	-4.7
Non-oil sector	2.5	1.9	1.9	4.9	-3.7	9.8	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0
Import volume	7.0	7.9	7.8	3.8	-2.5	6.8	3.1	4.3	5.7	5.7
Nominal effective exchange rate (depreciation -)	2.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Real effective exchange rate (depreciation -)	0.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Terms of trade	1.7	1.7	1.5	-2.7	-16.2	3.0	-2.2	-1.6	-0.5	-2.8
Export price index	8.9	1.8	1.4	-2.4	-23.6	2.7	-0.5	-0.9	-1.1	-2.1
Non-oil export price index	-3.5	-1.0	-0.7	-1.5	-12.4	0.6	-2.7	-1.3	-0.7	-1.0
Import price index	7.1	0.1	-0.1	0.4	-8.8	-0.3	1.7	0.7	-0.6	0.8
<b>Money and credit</b>										
Broad money (M2)	9.8	7.1	6.0	7.2	-1.8	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.7	8.0
Net foreign assets 1/	2.3	0.7	5.5	1.3	-6.2	0.9	3.1	2.2	2.4	2.7
Net domestic assets 1/	7.5	6.4	0.5	5.9	4.4	6.0	3.2	4.0	4.3	5.2
Domestic credit to the private sector	4.6	2.7	1.4	3.8	-2.7	5.0	5.0	5.9	6.8	8.7
(Percent of GDP, unless otherwise indicated)										
<b>Savings and investments</b>										
Gross national savings	26.2	25.8	25.7	25.7	22.5	25.2	26.4	27.2	28.5	29.9
Gross domestic investment	29.8	29.4	29.4	29.3	28.2	29.8	30.1	30.7	31.6	32.9
Public investment	6.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1
Private investment	23.0	23.1	23.1	23.1	21.8	23.3	23.9	24.5	25.4	26.8
<b>Central government operations</b>										
Total revenue (including grants)	16.1	16.4	16.3	15.2	13.9	14.9	14.9	14.8	14.9	15.0
Oil revenue	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
Non-oil revenue	13.3	13.6	13.6	12.9	12.3	13.1	13.2	13.4	13.6	13.9
Non-oil revenue (percent of non-oil GDP)	14.0	14.2	14.2	13.4	12.6	13.4	13.5	13.6	13.8	14.1
Total expenditure	18.5	18.6	18.7	17.3	18.4	17.6	17.1	16.9	16.8	16.6
Overall fiscal balance (payment order basis)										
Excluding grants	-2.9	-2.7	-2.8	-2.6	-4.9	-3.1	-2.6	-2.5	-2.2	-1.9
Including grants	-2.5	-2.3	-2.3	-2.1	-4.5	-2.7	-2.2	-2.1	-1.9	-1.5
Overall fiscal balance (cash basis)										
Excluding grants	-3.7	-3.6	-3.4	-3.0	-5.4	-3.8	-3.0	-2.7	-2.3	-1.9
Including grants	-3.3	-3.2	-2.9	-2.6	-5.0	-3.4	-2.6	-2.3	-2.0	-1.6
Non-oil primary balance (payment basis, percent of non-oil GDP)	-4.1	-3.9	-3.9	-3.2	-4.8	-3.2	-2.5	-2.3	-2.0	-1.5
<b>External sector</b>										
Current account balance										
Excluding official grants	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.1	-6.2	-5.1	-4.2	-3.8	-3.5	-3.4
Including official grants	-3.6	-3.6	-3.7	-3.6	-5.7	-4.6	-3.7	-3.4	-3.1	-3.1
<b>Public debt</b>										
Stock of public debt	39.5	40.8	40.9	40.8	45.5	45.2	44.7	44.1	43.2	41.7
Of which: external debt	28.6	30.5	30.4	30.6	34.3	34.8	34.8	34.2	33.2	32.2

Sources: Cameroonian authorities; and IMF staff estimates and projections using updated nominal GDP.

1/ Percent of broad money at the beginning of the period.

**Table 2a. Cameroon: Central Government Operations, 2018–25**  
(CFAF billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2018	2019		2020		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		5th Rev.	Proj.	5th Rev.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.
<b>Total revenue and grants</b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>3,704</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>3,152</b>	<b>3,610</b>	<b>3,818</b>	<b>4,040</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>4,692</b>
Total revenue	3,365	3,616	3,604	3,548	3,051	3,507	3,712	3,946	4,239	4,597
Oil sector revenue	500	532	520	443	267	331	316	296	274	254
Non-oil sector revenue	2,864	3,084	3,084	3,105	2,784	3,176	3,397	3,651	3,965	4,344
Direct taxes	643	768	768	732	659	757	806	859	920	1,015
Special tax on petroleum products	128	123	123	131	131	147	155	162	179	197
Other taxes on goods and services	1,497	1,614	1,614	1,599	1,433	1,612	1,735	1,883	2,026	2,202
Taxes on international trade	406	397	397	431	388	468	490	509	556	605
Non-tax revenue	191	182	182	212	172	192	211	239	284	325
Total grants	86.7	100	100	102	101	103	105	94	94	94
Projects	38	28	28	29	28	30	32	34	36	39
Other (debt relief)	48	72	72	73	73	73	73	60	58	55
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>4,235</b>	<b>4,235</b>	<b>4,163</b>	<b>4,162</b>	<b>4,268</b>	<b>4,392</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>4,888</b>	<b>5,175</b>
Current expenditure	2,485	2,731	2,731	2,667	2,732	2,716	2,817	2,952	3,108	3,263
Wages and salaries	1,007	1,012	1,012	1,064	1,064	1,109	1,136	1,195	1,229	1,293
Goods and services	733	802	802	786	821	786	800	852	912	949
Subsidies and transfers	547	717	717	597	627	581	618	652	697	740
Interest	199	200	200	220	220	241	263	253	270	281
External	151	152	152	170	170	197	218	218	233	247
Domestic	48	48	48	50	50	44	45	35	37	33
Capital expenditure	1,474	1,429	1,429	1,496	1,430	1,571	1,595	1,687	1,796	1,912
Domestically financed investment	674	604	604	654	614	699	694	752	768	821
Foreign-financed investment	749	775	775	796	770	823	850	880	969	1,027
Rehabilitation and participation	50	50	50	46	46	49	52	56	59	64
Net lending	27	76	76	0	0	-20	-20	-20	-16	0
<b>Overall balance (payment order basis)</b>										
Excluding grants	-621	-619	-631	-615	-1,111	-761	-680	-673	-649	-577
Including grants	-535	-519	-531	-513	-1,010	-658	-575	-579	-555	-483
<b>CEMAC reference fiscal balance</b>	<b>-629</b>	<b>-666</b>	<b>-666</b>	<b>-535</b>	<b>-885</b>	<b>-614</b>	<b>-559</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-543</b>	<b>-466</b>
<b>Adjustment to cash basis</b>	<b>-174</b>	<b>-204</b>	<b>-136</b>	<b>-117</b>	<b>-117</b>	<b>-155</b>	<b>-83</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-17</b>
Unexecuted payment orders (- = reduction)	-96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floats and arrears (- = reduction)	-78	-204	-136	-117	-117	-155	-83	-55	-17	-17
o/w Arrears (- = reduction)	-135	-110	-43	-65	-65	-35	0	0	-2	-2
o/w Floats (- = reduction)	136	-55	-55	-52	-43	-70	-48	-15	-15	-15
o/w other arrears 1/	-78	-39	-39	0	-9	-50	-35	-40	0	0
<b>Overall balance (cash basis)</b>										
Excluding grants	-795	-823	-768	-732	-1,228	-916	-763	-728	-666	-594
Including grants	-708	-723	-668	-630	-1,127	-813	-658	-634	-572	-500
<b>Financing</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>500</b>
External financing, net	825	509	509	465	440	486	452	337	419	448
Amortization	-210	-343	-343	-302	-302	-307	-366	-509	-513	-541
Drawings	1,036	852	852	767	742	793	818	846	932	988
Domestic financing, net	-116	-101	-92	3	63	66	25	153	153	52
Banking system	246	50	50	130	190	164	87	41	42	5
o/w statutory advances from BEAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-58	-58	-58
Other domestic financing	-362	-151	-141	-127	-127	-98	-62	112	110	48
<b>Financing gap</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Of which: IMF-ECF		45	45	90	90	0	0	0	0	0
Of which: budget support (excl. IMF)		271	206	72	125	0	0	0	0	0
AFDB		66	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0
WB		117	117	56	56	0	0	0	0	0
France		66	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU		23	23	16	16	0	0	0	0	0
Of which: exceptional financing					410	260	181	145	0	0
Prospective IMF-RCF					136	0	0	0	0	0
Other					274	260	181	145	0	0
<b>Memorandum items:</b>										
Floor of social spending	657	711	711							
Primary balance (payment order basis, incl. grants)	-336	-319	-331	-293	-790	-417	-312	-326	-285	-202
Primary balance (cash basis, incl. grants)	-510	-523	-468	-410	-907	-572	-395	-381	-302	-219
Non-oil primary balance (payment order basis, incl. grants)	-836	-851	-851	-736	-1,058	-747	-628	-622	-559	-456
Non-oil primary balance (cash basis, incl. grants)	-1,010	-1,055	-988	-853	-1,175	-902	-711	-677	-576	-473
Unpaid government obligations	583	379	446	262	329	174	91	36	19	2
Float	262	207	207	155	164	94	46	31	16	1
Arrears	146	36	104	-29	39	4	4	4	2	0
Other arrears 1/	174	135	135	135	126	76	41	1	1	1

Sources: Cameroonian authorities; and IMF staff estimates and projections with updated nominal GDP.

1/ Other arrears include the stock of unstructured debt that is held by CAA and the "floating" domestic debt at the Treasury as defined in the TMU. The payments of arrears are adjusted starting end-2018 and the stock of unpaid government obligations is adjusted starting end-2016 to reflect these operations.

**Table 2b. Cameroon: Central Government Operations, 2018–25**  
(In percent of GDP)

	2018	2019		2020		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		5th Rev.	Proj.	5th Rev.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.
<b>Total revenue and grants</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Total revenue	15.7	15.9	15.9	14.8	13.5	14.5	14.4	14.5	14.5	14.7
Oil sector revenue	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
Non-oil sector revenue	13.3	13.6	13.6	12.9	12.3	13.1	13.2	13.4	13.6	13.9
Direct taxes	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3
Special tax on petroleum products	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other taxes on goods and services	7.0	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1
Taxes on international trade	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Non-tax revenue	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0
Total grants	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Projects	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other (debt relief)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.6</b>
Current expenditure	11.6	12.0	12.0	11.1	12.1	11.2	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.5
Wages and salaries	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1
Goods and services	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0
Subsidies and transfers	2.5	3.2	3.2	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Interest	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
External	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Domestic	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Capital expenditure	6.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1
Domestically financed investment	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6
Foreign-financed investment	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3
Rehabilitation and participation	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Net lending	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
<b>Overall balance (payment order basis)</b>										
Excluding grants	-2.9	-2.7	-2.8	-2.6	-4.9	-3.1	-2.6	-2.5	-2.2	-1.9
Including grants	-2.5	-2.3	-2.3	-2.1	-4.5	-2.7	-2.2	-2.1	-1.9	-1.5
<b>CEMAC reference fiscal balance</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
<b>Adjustment to cash basis</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Unexecuted payment orders (- = reduction)	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Floats and arrears (- = reduction)	-0.4	-0.9	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
o/w Arrears (- = reduction)	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
o/w Floats (- = reduction)	0.6	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
o/w other arrears 1/	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
<b>Overall balance (cash basis)</b>										
Excluding grants	-3.7	-3.6	-3.4	-3.0	-5.4	-3.8	-3.0	-2.7	-2.3	-1.9
Including grants	-3.3	-3.2	-2.9	-2.6	-5.0	-3.4	-2.6	-2.3	-2.0	-1.6
<b>Financing</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>
External financing, net	3.8	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.4
Amortization	-1.0	-1.5	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.9	-1.8	-1.7
Drawings	4.8	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
Domestic financing, net	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.2
Banking system	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
o/w statutory advances from BEAC	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Other domestic financing	-1.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2
<b>Financing gap</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Of which: IMF-ECF		0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Of which: budget support (excl. IMF)		1.2	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
AFDB		0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WB		0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
France		0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EU		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Of which: exceptional financing					1.8	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0
Prospective IMF-RCF					0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other					1.2	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0
<b>Memorandum items:</b>										
Floor of social spending	3.1	3.1	3.1							
Primary balance (payment order basis, incl. grants)	-1.6	-1.4	-1.5	-1.2	-3.5	-1.7	-1.2	-1.2	-1.0	-0.6
Primary balance (cash basis, incl. grants)	-2.4	-2.3	-2.1	-1.7	-4.0	-2.4	-1.5	-1.4	-1.0	-0.7
Non-oil primary balance (payment order basis, incl. grants)	-3.9	-3.7	-3.8	-3.1	-4.7	-3.1	-2.4	-2.3	-1.9	-1.5
Non-oil primary balance (cash basis, incl. grants)	-4.7	-4.6	-4.4	-3.6	-5.2	-3.7	-2.8	-2.5	-2.0	-1.5
Unpaid government obligations	2.7	1.7	2.0	1.1	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
Float	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Arrears	0.7	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other arrears 1/	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Sources: Cameroonian authorities; and IMF staff estimates and projections with updated nominal GDP.

1/ Other arrears include the stock of unstructured debt that is held by CAA and the "floating" domestic debt at the Treasury as defined in the TMU. The payments of arrears are adjusted starting end-2018 and the stock of unpaid government obligations are adjusted starting end-2016 to reflect these operations.

**Table 3. Cameroon: Balance of Payments, 2018–25**  
(CFAF billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2018	2019		2020		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		5th Rev.	Proj.	5th Rev.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.
	(CFAF billion)									
<b>Current account balance</b>	<b>-778</b>	<b>-825</b>	<b>-834</b>	<b>-866</b>	<b>-1,280</b>	<b>-1,107</b>	<b>-952</b>	<b>-937</b>	<b>-912</b>	<b>-961</b>
Trade balance	-295	-316	-327	-405	-765	-706	-709	-725	-740	-825
Exports, goods	2,885	3,058	3,038	3,110	2,229	2,482	2,635	2,787	2,949	3,106
Oil and oil products	1,040	1,196	1,171	1,187	654	743	796	813	816	804
Non-oil sector	1,845	1,862	1,867	1,923	1,575	1,739	1,839	1,974	2,133	2,302
Imports, goods	-3,180	-3,374	-3,365	-3,515	-2,994	-3,188	-3,344	-3,511	-3,690	-3,931
Services (net)	-324	-344	-347	-336	-415	-349	-232	-219	-205	-193
Exports, services	1,187	1,212	1,213	1,244	891	1,113	1,297	1,377	1,465	1,560
Imports, services	-1,511	-1,555	-1,560	-1,580	-1,306	-1,462	-1,530	-1,597	-1,670	-1,753
Income (net)	-411	-443	-438	-418	-367	-358	-340	-303	-291	-280
Of which: interest due on public debt	-151	-152	-152	-170	-170	-197	-218	-218	-233	-247
Transfers (net)	253	278	278	293	267	307	330	311	324	337
Inflows	417	470	470	488	460	503	529	513	529	547
Outflows	-164	-192	-192	-195	-192	-196	-200	-202	-205	-210
<b>Capital and financial account balance</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,152</b>
Capital account	91	28	28	29	28	30	32	34	36	39
Capital transfers	87	28	28	29	28	30	32	34	36	39
Of which: private transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial account	778	643	752	837	588	868	919	895	1,034	1,113
Official capital	825	509	509	465	440	486	452	337	419	448
Borrowing	1,036	852	852	767	742	793	818	846	932	988
Of which: SDR allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Principal not yet due rescheduled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortization	-210	-343	-343	-302	-302	-307	-366	-509	-513	-541
Principal not yet due (relief)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-official capital (net)	348	417	417	512	308	482	547	598	645	695
of which: Foreign direct investment	365	404	404	497	303	469	534	585	631	681
Oil sector (net)	87	99	99	101	42	67	75	83	82	81
Non-oil sector	262	318	318	411	265	414	472	515	563	614
Short-term private capital, net	-396	-283	-174	-140	-160	-100	-80	-40	-30	-30
Errors and omissions	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Overall balance</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>-154</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-664</b>	<b>-209</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Financing</b>	<b>-167</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-158</b>	<b>-191</b>
Bank of Central African States	-237	-147	-181	-161	39	-51	-179	-104	-107	-112
Use of IMF credit (net)	70	-15	-15	0	0	0	0	-33	-51	-80
Financing gap	0	316	251	162	625	260	181	145	0	0
Of which:										
Possible IMF financing		45	45	90	90	0	0	0	0	0
Remaining financing gap		271	206	72	535	260	181	145	0	0
AFDB		66	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0
WB		117	117	56	56	0	0	0	0	0
France		66	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU		23	23	16	16	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptional Financing					410	260	181	145	0	0
Prospective IMF-RCF					136					
Non-IMF					274					
	(Percent of GDP)									
<b>Trade balance</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Oil exports	4.8	5.3	5.2	4.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.6
Non-oil exports	8.6	8.2	8.2	8.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.4
Imports	14.8	14.9	14.8	14.6	13.2	13.2	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.6
<b>Current account balance</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Including grants	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.1	-6.2	-5.1	-4.2	-3.8	-3.5	-3.4
<b>Overall balance</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Foreign direct investment</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>
	(Percentage change, unless otherwise indicated)									
Export volume	-0.9	4.1	3.8	4.1	-4.0	8.5	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.6
Crude oil	-16.7	16.5	14.8	0.5	-5.7	1.6	-4.2	-6.3	-6.6	-4.7
Nonoil	2.5	1.9	1.9	4.9	-3.7	9.8	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0
Import volume	7.0	7.9	7.8	3.8	-2.5	6.8	3.1	4.3	5.7	5.7
Terms of trade	1.7	1.7	1.5	-2.7	-16.2	3.0	-2.2	-1.6	-0.5	-2.8
Non-oil export price index	-3.5	-1.0	-0.7	-1.5	-12.4	0.6	-2.7	-1.3	-0.7	-1.0
Export price index	8.9	1.8	1.4	-2.4	-23.6	2.7	-0.5	-0.9	-1.1	-2.1
Import price index	3.6	-0.6	-0.1	-0.2	-8.8	-0.3	1.7	0.7	-0.6	0.8
Oil price (\$US dollars per barrel)	68.3	61.8	61.4	57.9	35.6	37.9	40.9	43.2	45.0	46.4

Sources: Cameroonian authorities; and IMF staff estimates and projections.

**Table 4. Cameroon: Monetary Survey, 2018–25**  
(CFAF billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2018		2019					2020		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Incl. CCA	Q1 Act.	Q2 Act.	Q3 Act.	5th Rev.	Est.	5th Rev.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	Proj.	
<b>Net foreign assets</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>2,733</b>
Bank of Central African States (BEAC)	1,477	1,477	1,522	1,702	1,447	1,594	1,643	1,666	1,378	1,429	1,609	1,746	1,904	2,095
<i>Of which</i> : BEAC foreign assets	2,007	2,007	2,045	2,254	2,016	2,153	2,189	2,315	2,150	2,201	2,380	2,484	2,591	2,703
<i>Of which</i> : IMF credit	-268	-268	-265	-265	-306	-297	-302	-387	-528	-528	-528	-494	-443	-364
Commercial banks	597	595	583	513	548	516	718	516	638	638	638	638	638	638
<b>Net domestic assets</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>4,197</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>4,850</b>
Domestic credit	3,655	3,774	3,716	3,742	3,891	4,057	4,005	4,390	4,251	4,578	4,766	5,013	5,299	5,667
Net claims on the public sector	761	785	785	814	927	989	967	1,208	1,290	1,468	1,506	1,561	1,614	1,665
Net credit to the central government	882	883	893	928	1,085	977	1,165	1,197	1,445	1,609	1,697	1,737	1,780	1,785
Central Bank	309	309	285	192	282	263	394	321	532	560	530	480	430	347
Claims	845	845	842	842	883	875	879	965	1,105	1,105	1,105	1,014	905	768
Credit under statutory ceiling	577	577	577	577	577	577	577	577	577	577	577	519	462	404
Counterpart of IMF credit	268	268	265	265	306	297	302	387	528	528	528	494	443	364
Deposits	-536	-536	-557	-650	-602	-611	-485	-643	-573	-545	-575	-534	-475	-421
Commercial Banks	573	574	609	737	804	714	771	876	913	1,049	1,167	1,257	1,351	1,428
Claims on the Treasury	576	577	615	774	834	727	802	887	942	1,076	1,194	1,284	1,378	1,455
Deposits	-3	-3	-6	-38	-30	-13	-31	-11	-29	-27	-27	-27	-27	-27
Deposits of other public entities	-397	-397	-388	-413	-414	-312	-465	-312	-435	-435	-485	-485	-490	-460
Credit to autonomous agencies	33	56	38	52	33	56	37	56	39	41	41	43	45	47
Credit to the economy 1/	3,137	3,232	3,173	3,175	3,186	3,336	3,268	3,449	3,203	3,363	3,514	3,718	3,965	4,295
Credit to public enterprises	243	243	242	247	223	267	230	267	241	253	253	266	279	293
Credit to financial institutions	54	60	46	35	34	60	68	60	71	75	75	79	83	87
Credit to the private sector	2,839	2,929	2,885	2,893	2,930	3,008	2,970	3,122	2,890	3,034	3,185	3,373	3,602	3,915
Other items (net)	3,137	-612	-640	-637	-538	-560	-816	-560	-816	-816	-816	-816	-816	-816
<b>Broad money</b>	<b>5,053</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>5,348</b>	<b>5,607</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>6,012</b>	<b>5,451</b>	<b>5,829</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>6,580</b>	<b>7,025</b>	<b>7,584</b>
Currency outside banks	1,074	1,057	1,002	1,035	1,042	1,131	1,124	1,212	1,105	1,180	1,254	1,331	1,419	1,531
Deposits	3,979	4,178	4,178	4,285	4,306	4,476	4,425	4,800	4,347	4,648	4,943	5,250	5,605	6,052
<b>Memorandum items:</b>														
Net borrowing from the central bank excluding IMF	41	41	20	-73	-24	-34	92	-66	4	32	2	-14	-14	-17
Contribution to the growth of broad money (percentage points)														
Net foreign assets	2.3	2.2	1.5	7.9	3.7	0.7	5.5	1.3	-6.2	0.9	3.1	2.2	2.4	2.7
Net domestic assets	7.5	11.5	10.1	6.9	9.2	6.4	0.5	5.9	4.4	6.0	3.2	4.0	4.3	5.2
<i>Of which</i> : net credit to the central government	6.5	6.5	6.8	5.9	6.3	1.8	5.4	3.9	5.0	3.0	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.1
Credit to the economy (annual percentage change)	7.2	10.5	7.7	4.4	2.8	3.2	1.1	3.4	-2.0	5.0	4.5	5.8	6.6	8.3
Credit to the private sector														
Annual percentage change	4.6	7.9	7.1	7.8	4.4	2.7	1.4	3.8	-2.7	5.0	5.0	5.9	6.8	8.7
In percent of GDP	13.3	13.6	12.7	12.7	12.9	13.2	13.1	13.0	12.8	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.5
Broad money (annual percentage change)	9.8	13.7	11.9	14.8	12.9	7.1	6.0	7.2	-1.8	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.7	8.0
Currency outside banks	9.8	8.0	8.5	14.6	8.1	7.1	6.4	7.2	-1.7	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.7	7.9
Deposits	9.8	15.3	12.8	14.8	14.1	7.1	5.9	7.2	-1.8	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.8	8.0
Velocity (GDP/average M2)	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

Sources: BEAC, and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ Credit to the economy includes credit to public enterprises, financial institutions and the private sector.



**Table 6a. Cameroon: Original Schedule of Disbursements Under the ECF Arrangement, 2017–20**

	Date of Availability	Amount (SDR Million)	Percent of quota 1/	Conditions for Disbursement
1	6/26/2017	124.2	45	Executive Board approval of the ECF arrangement.
2	12/15/2017	82.8	30	Observance of continuous and end-June 2017 performance criteria, and completion of the first review.
3	6/30/2018	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-December 2017 performance criteria, and completion of the second review.
4	12/15/2018	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-June 2018 performance criteria, and completion of the third review.
5	6/15/2019	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-December 2018 performance criteria, and completion of the fourth review.
6	12/15/2019	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-June 2019 performance criteria, and completion of the fifth review.
7	5/31/2020	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-December 2019 performance criteria, and completion of the sixth review.
	Total	483.0	175	

Source: IMF staff calculations.

1/ Cameroon's current quota is SDR 276.0 million, and SDR 427.8 million was outstanding as of April 15, 2020

**Table 6b. Cameroon: Proposed New Schedule of Disbursements Under the ECF Arrangement, 2017–20**

	Date of Availability	Amount (SDR Million)	Percent of quota 1/	Conditions for Disbursement
1	6/26/2017	124.2	45	Executive Board approval of the ECF arrangement.
2	12/15/2017	82.8	30	Observance of continuous and end-June 2017 performance criteria, and completion of the first review.
3	6/30/2018	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-December 2017 performance criteria, and completion of the second review.
4	12/15/2018	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-June 2018 performance criteria, and completion of the third review.
5	6/15/2019	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-December 2018 performance criteria, and completion of the fourth review.
6	12/15/2019	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-June 2019 performance criteria, and completion of the fifth review.
7	7/25/2020	55.2	20	Observance of continuous and end-December 2019 performance criteria, and completion of the sixth review.
	Total	483.0	175	

Source: IMF staff calculations.

1/ Cameroon's current quota is SDR 276.0 million, and SDR 427.8 million was outstanding as of April 15, 2020

## Appendix I. Letter of Intent

Yaoundé, April 28, 2020

To

Madam Kristalina Georgieva  
Managing Director  
International Monetary Fund  
700 19<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, DC. 20431  
USA

Subject: Letter of Intent for access to the Rapid Credit Facility

Dear Madam Managing Director,

1. While the government is continuing to implement its Economic and Financial Program, supported by an Extended Credit Facility (ECF), the COVID-19 pandemic has appeared and is causing a significant impact on Cameroon's economy, potentially undoing hard-won macroeconomic gains and endangering our development agenda. The economic impact was being felt even before the first case was confirmed on March 5 when trade with China, one of Cameroon's largest partners, was disrupted and our export and service sectors have been hit hard following a grinding halt to imports from and exports to China, the reduction in tourism and transfers from abroad, the cancellation of multiple large international events (including the Soccer African Nations Championship) that were planned to take place in Douala and Yaoundé during this first semester of this year, and the slowdown in the world's global growth. The pandemic comes on the back of the negative economic impact of the security crisis in the two anglophone regions as well as in the far-northern region and the suspension of production at the SONARA since it was hit by a fire at end-May 2019.
2. Since the first case of infected person were uncovered in Cameroon, the negative economic impact of the pandemic has accelerated as the number of cases started to climb. To contain and mitigate the spread of the disease, we took on March 17 a set of strict measures including closure of our land, air and sea borders (with the exception of cargo flights and vessels transporting consumer products and essential goods and materials), cancellations of sport competitions, closure of schools, bar and restaurants, and prohibition of the gathering of more than 50 people throughout the national territory. We have also scaled up health care spending to respond to this outbreak.
3. In conjunction with the implementation of these drastic measures, a COVID-19 preparation and response plan has been developed by our Ministry of Public Health with the support of WHO and

other local government institutions. The plan includes country-level coordination, case investigation and rapid response, provision of patient care and medical supplies, infection prevention and control, case management, and raising public awareness of the risks posed by the pandemic and prevention methods. At this juncture, the cost of preparedness and response plan is estimated at about CFAF 58.3 billion (about 0.2 percent of GDP).

4. Our country is hit by the COVID-19 at the same time as the collapse of international oil prices. These two shocks, combined, have a major negative impact on Cameroon's economic activity. Our preliminary projections indicate that real GDP growth could decline from 3.9 percent in 2019 to -1.2 percent in 2020—down from a pre-pandemic projection of 3.8 percent at the time of the 5th review of the ECF arrangement—owing to the various channels through which the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting economic activities, particularly the closing of our borders and the restrictions imposed on the movement of the population. Despite the disruption of the food supply channels, inflation is expected to rise moderately due to multiple factors that are dampening domestic demand.

5. We are experiencing significant deterioration in our external sector position. The projected decline in international oil prices, global demand of our non-oil exports, tourism receipts and current transfers (including remittances) are expected to widen our current account by 2 percentage point of GDP. This rise in current account deficit, together with projected decline in non-official capital inflows, will generate an additional external financing gap estimated at 2 percent of GDP in 2020.

6. The dramatic fall in oil prices, the slowdown in economic activity, and the implementation of measures to limit the spread of the pandemic have a strong negative impact on fiscal revenues, while expenditures are increasing, in particular to implement our anti-pandemic response plan, meet basic health care needs, and support the most vulnerable segments of the population. The uncertainties about the duration and extent of the pandemic is complicating a full assessment of the full impact of the two shocks on public finances. We currently expect a shortfall in total domestic revenue of 1.3 percentage point of GDP in 2020, compared to the pre-COVID-19 projections. To cope with the pandemic, the government has intensified the tightening of controls over spending and initiated a reassessment of its investment program to reprioritize projects and free up room for the funding of expenditures related to COVID-19 and support hard-hit private-sector enterprises and vulnerable groups. Despite these measures and the automatic drop in budgeted pump price subsidies, the pandemic shock has generated immediate fiscal needs close to CFAF 400 milliards for 2020 (about US\$700 million).

7. Against this background, and in the face of the urgent fiscal and balance of payments needs arising from the two exogenous shocks and the need to limit the negative impact of the shocks on poverty and growth, the Government of Cameroon requests emergency financing from the IMF under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) in the amount of SDR165.6 million, equivalent to 60 percent of our quota, to ease the pressure on our fiscal resources and official foreign reserves. We are confident that IMF involvement in the international effort to assist Cameroon in dealing with the economic fallout from the global pandemic will play a catalytic role in securing additional financing from our development partners, particularly to cover urgent needs to upgrade our health system. We commit

also to strengthen our efforts to seek additional financial assistance from donors, either in the form of grants or concessional loans.

8. We will ensure that the financial assistance received is used for the intended purposes, in strict compliance with the provisions of the Law on the Code for Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management in Cameroon and the Law on the Financial Regime for the Government and Other Public Entities, all adopted in July 2018. For this purpose, the funds linked to COVID-19 will be subject to the strict application of the budgetary procedures and controls provided for by the above Laws. In addition, we commit to issue a semi-annual report on COVID-19 related spending and to commission an independent audit of this spending at the end of the 2020 fiscal year and publish the results. We also commit to publishing documents relating to the results of public procurement awarded by the government and the beneficial ownership of companies receiving procurement contracts on COVID-19 related expenditures. In the meantime, such COVID-19 related expenditures are being incorporated in a supplementary budget in preparation and expected to be presented to the Parliament in June 2020

9. We remain firmly determined in fulfilling our commitments made in our January 7, 2020 Letter of Intent for the fifth review and committed to the ECF-supported program. However, the impact of the pandemic on the economic outlook and the accompanying restrictions make completing the sixth review of the ECF arrangement difficult at this juncture. Maintaining macroeconomic stability, strengthening the fiscal revenue base, improving spending efficiency, fostering good governance, and promoting the formal private sector are still key goals. The government will ensure that the support and assistance measures taken as part of the response to COVID-19 do not prejudice the mobilization of tax revenues in the medium and long term. The government is committed to observe fiscal transparency by enshrining the measures in a revised budget. Moreover, the government will not introduce measures or policies that would compound its BoP difficulties or introduce any new exchange or trade restrictions. Due to the delay in the completion of the sixth review under the ECF arrangement and to allow for an RCF request of 60 percent of quota, we request that (i) the ECF arrangement be extended from June 25, 2020 to September 30, 2020 and; (ii) the availability date for the sixth review (seventh disbursement) under the ECF arrangement be moved from May 31, 2020 to July 25, 2020.

10. The Cameroon government will continue to maintain a constructive dialogue with the IMF and will provide the Fund staff with all the data and information necessary to evaluate our policies, including those taken under the access to the RCF. We agree to cooperate with the IMF in relation to any update safeguards assessment of the BEAC to be carried out by the IMF. We further authorize the IMF to publish this Letter and the staff report for the request for disbursement under the RCF.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Louis Paul Motaze

Minister of Finance