

**FOR
INFORMATION**

SM/20/100
Supplement 2
Revision 1

July 14, 2020

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **Temporary Modification to the Fund's Annual Access Limits—Revised Draft Press Release**

Board Action:	Executive Directors' information
Publication:	Yes, after Thursday, July 16, 2020, with main paper
Additional Information:	Revised in response to comments made by Executive Directors at the Board meeting on July 13, 2020
Questions:	Mr. Kim, SPR (ext. 34916) Mr. Andritzky, SPR (ext. 36417)



IMF Executive Board Approves a Temporary Increase in Annual Access Limits to Financial Support

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on global economic conditions has resulted in an unprecedented number of member countries seeking financial support from the IMF. As of July 13, 2020, 72 countries have already received financial assistance from the IMF's emergency financing instruments since the onset of the pandemic, facilitated by the doubling of annual access limits under these facilities approved by the Executive Board on April 6. Further requests for assistance, the majority of which are likely to be met through the IMF's regular lending instruments, are expected in the months ahead.

IMF lending is subject to an annual limit on the access to resources that a country can obtain from its general resources and a separate annual limit on access under its concessional facilities. Many of the countries that have received financial support from the IMF since the onset of the pandemic have reached, or are approaching, the relevant annual access limits. Requests for financial assistance in excess of these annual limits trigger application of the relevant exceptional access framework, where the request is subject to tighter scrutiny and can be approved only if specified criteria are met.

Given the unique circumstances created by the pandemic, the IMF's Executive Board approved temporary increases in these annual access limits, to remain in effect through April 6, 2021. This will allow member countries to obtain higher levels of financial support during this time period without triggering the application of the exceptional access framework. The existing limits on cumulative access are unaffected by this temporary change.

The Executive Board also approved the temporary suspension of the limit on the number of disbursements under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) through April 6, 2021. This allows emergency financing to the IMF's poorest member countries to be provided more frequently over the course of a year, provided that the combined amounts of support provided under the RCF does not exceed the annual limit on access under this facility.

Executive Board Assessment¹

[Insert Executive Board Assessment Here]

¹ An explanation of any qualifiers used in summings up can be found here: <http://www.IMF.org/external/np/sec/misc/qualifiers.htm>.