

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1725

Zurich, 29 July 2020
SG

FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to share with you all the necessary information related to the FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan which was unanimously approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 25 June.

In order to establish an effective and meaningful plan that both provides immediate liquidity relief to Member Associations and offers support to the whole football community, the following three-stage approach – which makes up to USD 1.5 billion available to assist Member Associations and the wider football community – has been adopted:

- **Stage 1 – Provision of immediate liquidity relief to Member Associations**

As communicated in circular no. 1715, under stage 1 of the Relief Plan, FIFA waived all conditions associated – per article 6 paragraph 3 of the Forward 2.0 Regulations – with remaining operational-cost entitlements under the Forward Programme up to and including the year 2020. This enabled the early and prompt release of the maximum amounts of funds to provide immediate liquidity to Member Associations during the first months of the global pandemic.

- **Stage 2 – Provision of additional support to Member Associations**

In addition, under stage 2 of the Relief Plan, Member Associations have the opportunity to transform remaining Forward specific project allocations into temporary COVID-19 relief funds. Any MA that wishes to avail itself of this option is required to allocate a minimum of 50% of the funds released to women's football.

The existing Forward 2.0 regulatory framework will govern this stage of the Relief Plan. However, there is no requirement for the transformation of the relevant funds to be included in the contract of agreed objectives, and the three infrastructure-related criteria under article 6 paragraph 4 b) ii) of the Forward 2.0 Regulations are waived for such applications. The Forward "other projects" application form shall be submitted for any such requests, together with all necessary supporting documentation, on which further detail can be provided by the FIFA Member Associations Division upon request.

All Member Associations that make use of this option will be required to complete the relevant reporting forms detailing how the funds were used, including with respect to the budget indicated in the application form. Any funds released in accordance with these new recommendations will be fully audited as per the Forward 2.0 Regulations and prioritised in the 2020 central review process.

Stage 3 – Support for Member Associations and the wider football community

Under stage 3 of the Relief Plan, further financial support is provided via a system of grants and loans that enables Member Associations and confederations to tailor the use of the available funds to help safeguard football from the adverse economic effects of COVID-19.

In addition to the FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Stage 3 Regulations (Enclosure 1), please also find enclosed the application forms that need to be submitted by email to your respective FIFA Regional Development Office in order to access the following entitlements:

Member Associations

- Solidarity Grant of USD 1 million per MA

The Solidarity Grant will be payable in two instalments of USD 500,000 as follows:

- a first instalment of USD 500,000 following the FIFA general secretariat's approval of the duly completed Solidarity Grant Application (Enclosure 2); and
- a second instalment of USD 500,000 as of January 2021 in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions contained in the Solidarity Grant Application.

- Women's Football Grant of USD 500,000 per MA

The Women's Football Grant will be payable as a single payment of USD 500,000 following the FIFA general secretariat's approval of the duly completed Women's Football Grant Application (Enclosure 3).

- Loan facility

Each MA is entitled to apply for interest-free loans amounting to up to 35% of its audited annual revenues (as per the audited financial statements most recently submitted to FIFA prior to 1 March 2020). In the interest of solidarity, all Member Associations may request a loan of USD 500,000, while the maximum aggregate amount available to any MA will be USD 5 million. The Loan Application form is contained in Enclosure 5 and will be followed shortly after submission by the formalisation of a loan contract, to be agreed between the MA and FIFA.

Both grants and loans may be redistributed by Member Associations to the wider football community in their respective territories, including clubs, players, leagues or others that have been affected by the pandemic. The disbursement of funds to the wider football community must be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the enclosed FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Stage 3 Regulations. The permissible uses of the funds are stipulated in the regulations and include, but are not limited to:

- a) the restart of competitions across all categories (where the sanitary situation and government policy permit);
- b) the implementation of return-to-play protocols, including testing;
- c) the participation of national teams of all age categories in restarted competitions;
- d) the payment of staff costs and (re-)hiring of essential staff where necessary;
- e) the maintenance of footballing infrastructure;
- f) the development of football activities, including women's football; and
- g) the payment of general administration and operating costs where the situation requires.

Confederations

Each confederation is also entitled to support via a grant of USD 2 million (see Enclosure 4) and the opportunity to apply for a loan of up to USD 4 million (see Enclosure 5 – the same form as for MA loans).

In order to ensure effective oversight of the Relief Plan, as set out in the regulations, the FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan Steering Committee will supervise the administration of the Relief Plan and play a key role in overseeing the implementation of strict controls on the use of funds, as well as audit requirements and the establishment of clear loan-repayment conditions.

Please note that the FIFA Member Associations Division will be in touch in the coming weeks to organise online information sessions and working groups in order to provide all the necessary guidance and assistance with regard to all aspects of the Relief Plan, and to address any practical issues, questions or feedback you may have in relation to this topic.

In the meantime, for any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact the respective FIFA Regional Development Office or your relevant regional team within the FIFA Member Associations Division directly.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Encl.

1. FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Stage 3 Regulations
2. FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Solidarity Grant Application
3. FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Women’s Football Grant Application
4. FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Confederation Grant Application
5. FIFA COVID-19 Relief Plan – Loan Application

cc:

- FIFA Council and Confederations