



ForeignAssistance.gov and Foreign Aid Explorer

WHAT

USAID and the Department of State, Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources (State/F) are leading the effort to ensure greater transparency of U.S. Government foreign assistance funding through [ForeignAssistance.gov](https://foreignassistance.gov) (FA.gov) and Foreign Aid Explorer (<https://explorer.usaid.gov/>) websites. The websites allow users to look at data by country, sector, fiscal year, agency, and implementing organization. While both websites give a wide variety of stakeholders the ability to examine and track U.S. Government foreign assistance investments in an accessible and easy-to-understand format, there are key differences between the two.

FA.gov reports aggregate planned, obligation, and disbursement data from 2006 onwards for 10 agencies, and transaction data from 2013 onwards for eight agencies. The data are available on a quarterly basis for download in XML format, the International Aid Transparency Initiative's (IATI) common data standard. The Foreign Aid Explorer includes comprehensive, aggregate historical (1946-2000) and disaggregated (2001-present) obligation and disbursement data on the 30 U.S. Government agencies implementing foreign assistance. USAID collects the data on the Foreign Aid Explorer quarterly or annually, depending on the capability of the reporting agency. USAID posts data to the Foreign Aid Explorer periodically throughout the year as significant data releases are ready.

WHY

USAID and State/F use ForeignAssistance.gov and the Foreign Aid Explorer to support U.S. Government transparency efforts and the President's Open Government initiative. Publishing timely data on FA.gov is a significant step in fulfilling the U.S. Government's IATI commitments. USAID uses the Foreign Aid Explorer to fulfill the dual reporting requirements of the Congressionally mandated U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants report, informally called the Greenbook, and the U.S. Annual Assistance Report for its membership in the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC). USAID produces the reports annually once it collects, cleans, standardizes, validates, and codes data from all reporting agencies; the collection of data from all reporting agencies can take up to one fiscal year.

WHO

As the lead U.S. Government agency for international aid, USAID is responsible for reporting official U.S. Government foreign aid to Congress and the OECD. USAID's Economic Analysis and Data Services maintains the Foreign Aid Explorer. State/F is mandated in OMB Bulletin 12-01 to operate FA.gov and register U.S. Government data with IATI.

HOW

Currently, not all agencies report data to FA.gov in sufficient enough detail and completeness to fulfill all official U.S. Government foreign assistance reporting requirements. OMB Bulletin 12-01 recognizes a transition period for agencies reporting to FA.gov, noting in the interim USAID must work with these agencies to obtain additional information to fulfill Greenbook and OECD/DAC reporting requirements. Once FA.gov reporting is sufficiently detailed, comprehensive, and complete, USAID will obtain the data for Greenbook and OECD/DAC reporting from FA.gov. While currently USAID and State/F must maintain FA.gov and the Foreign Aid Explorer and the current parallel reporting processes, they are working on a long-term vision for combining the sites to reduce duplication and present a single, authoritative source of foreign assistance investments.