Foreign Assistance Data Reporting Guide for ForeignAssistance.gov Users

This guide is intended to provide users with an overview of the foreign assistance data published to ForeignAssistance.gov for the Department of State. This guide is updated on an annual basis, with the last update occurring in August 2016. Any limitations to the agency-reported data are noted in Section 4 of this document.

1. Summary of Department of State's Foreign Assistance Portfolio

The Department of State provides foreign assistance across a wide range of sectors, countries, and implementing partners to promote peace and stability in areas of vital interest to America, helping developing nations establish stable economic environments, and strengthening health system outcomes. The Department funds activities to support these foreign assistance goals through the below bilateral and multilateral foreign assistance accounts. These data associated with the below accounts represents 98% of the Department's foreign assistance portfolio.

TREASURY ACCOUNT CODE	TREASURY ACCOUNT TITLE	TIMEFRAME REPORTED	REPORTED	NOT YET REPORTED
1154	Andean Counterdrug Programs	FY2016- present	X	
0306	Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia	FY2012- present	X	
1015	Complex Crises Fund	FY2015- present	X	
1121	Democracy Fund	FY2013- present	X	
1021	Development Assistance	FY2013- present	X	
1037	Economic Support Fund	FY2012- present	X	
1082	Foreign Military Financing	FY2014- present	X	
1031	Global Health and Child Survival	FY2012- present	X	
1030	Global HIV-AIDS Initiative	FY2012- present	X	
1081	International Military Education and Training	FY2014- present	X	
1022	International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, International Security Assistance	FY2011- present	X	
1005	International Programs and Operations	FY2012- present	X	
1143	Migration and Refugee Assistance	FY2011- present	X	
1071	Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund	FY2016- present	X	

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TREASURY ACCOUNT CODE	TREASURY ACCOUNT TITLE	TIMEFRAME REPORTED	REPORTED	NOT YET REPORTED
1075	Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs, International Security Assistance	FY2011- present	X	
1032	Peacekeeping Operations	FY2012- present	X	
0040	United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund	FY2012- present	X	

2. Data Source

The main source of the Department of State's data is the Department's centrally-managed financial system, the Global Financial Management System (GFMS). GFMS is the Department of State's system of record and pulls in data from other financial systems, such as those specific to grants or overseas transactions. While these other systems feed into GFMS, the detail they provide in GFMS reports varies. GFMS is an accounting system and tracks all actions against obligations and disbursements. It is not a project management system. The Department continues to make every effort to feature data that further supplements the GFMS-sourced data available on ForeignAssistance.gov. For example, the Department is now publishing budget and descriptive programmatic and activity data sourced from the Foreign Assistance Coordination and Tracking System (FACTS Info), an enterprise-wide planning and budget system. Programmatic descriptive data is populated in FACTS Info annually and is updated when additional information becomes available.

The Department is also publishing performance data annually, drawn from FACTS Info. This data is published under the Special Data Sets section of the site and includes information related to performance indicator targets and results. FACTS Info is also the source for the Planned Data Set, which lists the Department's annual budget requests (as part of the President's Budget Request) and appropriations. Appropriations figures in the planned data set for the Department of State and USAID are based on 653(a) figures for that fiscal year. This data is published as is becomes available.

SOURCE SYSTEM	SYSTEM TYPE	TRANSACTION TYPE	AID TYPE
GFMS	Financial/Accounting	Obligations Disbursements	Contracts/ Grants/ Interagency Transfers

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FACTS Info	Planning and Budget	Budgets, Descriptive Activity Data, Planning Data, and Performance Data	Contracts/ Grants/ Interagency Transfers

3. Data Reporting

The data made available on ForeignAssistance.gov is drawn from a GFMS-based custom Unliquidated Obligations Report (ULO) prepared for publication on the website. It includes obligations and disbursements made against the seventeen foreign assistance appropriations accounts beginning with new obligations made in FY 2012 through the second quarter of FY 2014. The data also includes actions against obligations made in prior years which occurred in FY 2012 forward. As an example, if money is obligated to fund a contract in FY 2011 and task orders are still being issued in FY 2013, those task orders will be included in the report. The data includes both contracts and grants as well as other activities funded from foreign assistance accounts such travel expenses and interagency transfers. Users may find that some transactions have a negative value. These are instances where funds may have been de-obligated or a recipient returned funds to the project. Negative values may occur at both the commitment and disbursement levels. The data set also includes transaction figures that range from the millions to one or two dollars. Since the GFMS report captures all transactions associated with foreign assistance activities, disbursements and commitments can span large grant programs or small travel expenses. At the present time, the report only includes domestic transactions, but will be updated in the future to include overseas transactions as well.

Descriptive activity data now available on ForeignAssistance.gov is drawn from the annual Operational Plans stored in FACTS Info. This data is meant to provide context and further detail related to the financial transactions already published on the site. It includes proposed budgets for anticipated programs, project descriptions, titles, and implementing partners. The data became available during FY 2014 and will be updated annually going forward.

4. Data Reporting Limitations

There are known gaps in the currently reported dataset to ForeignAssistance.gov. There are multiple systems used to track domestic and overseas financial reporting and contracts and grants, the data required by ForeignAssistance.gov is spread through multiple systems and is not standardized. Additionally, the Department's financial systems do not capture all of the data fields mandated by OMB Bulletin 12-01. The Department has undertaken the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR) in order to closely assess data gaps and improve both the quality and scope of data reporting

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across the entire Department. The entire report is publically available using the link above.

Key data gaps for the Department include:

- **Benefiting Country** – The current financial transaction reporting does not capture benefiting country for most transactions. If a benefiting country could not be derived from the Post allotment code, the funds were assigned to Worldwide. As a result, these funds are not captured on the country pages, country-specific data download, or map visualization available on FA.gov. In the future, data from the Department's primary overseas reporting tool as well as other enterprise-wide program management systems will be incorporated to provide more country-level detail.

- **Sector** – No financial system within the Department captures sector information. For financial transaction data, this field has been derived from the appropriations accounts when an account has a one-to-one relationship with a sector. However, not all accounts can be assigned to a particular foreign assistance sector. When an account cannot be assigned to a specific sector it is assigned to the category called Multi-Sector - Unspecified. For example, the Global Health and Child Survival account aligns to the HIV/AIDS sector, but the Economic Support Fund supports multiple sectors, so it is assigned to Multi-Sector – Unspecified. As part of the FADR initiative, the Department is working to pull sector data from other enterprise-wide systems to supplement the financial transaction data.

DATA VALUE	DEFINITION
Not Available	This references data that is not available in the XYZ Department's financial systems. The information may not be collected systematically at the current time.
Information Redacted	This references data that is considered sensitive according to one of the six Principled Exceptions enumerated in OMB Bulletin 12-01, or contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII), which is not permissible for public release.