

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 U.S. Trade & Development Agency (USTDA). This guide is updated on an annual basis, with the last update occurring in October 2019. Any limitations to the agency-reported data are noted in Section 4 of this document.

1. Summary of USTDA's Foreign Assistance Portfolio

A summary of USTDA's foreign assistance portfolio can be viewed on the Agency's website: <https://www.ustda.gov/>

TREASURY ACCOUNT CODE	TREASURY ACCOUNT TITLE	TIME FRAME REPORTED	REPORTED
11x1001	Trade and Development Agency (TDA)	FY2015-present	Yes
72X1037	Agency for International Development - Economic Support Fund (USAID)	FY2015-present	Yes
19X1037	Department of State	FY2015-present	Yes

2. Data Source

USTDA sources data from the Agency's database system, TDA Management Information System (TDAMIS). TDAMIS connects the Agency's financial, programmatic, and evaluation records. Although USTDA enters financial activity in TDAMIS for record keeping, USTDA uses the Oracle Financial Management System (FMS) as the system of record to conduct all obligation and disbursement activity. The FMS is a government to government shared service provided by the Interior Business Center of the Department of Interior.

USTDA excludes the following categories of activities funded from quarterly reporting to ForeignAssistance.gov: desk studies, definitional missions, sponsorship fees, travel insurance, overseas office expenses, personal service contracts, any personally identifying information (PII), information not conforming to the Procurement Integrity Act, and other incidentals to comply with the data submission requirements pertaining to ForeignAssistance.gov.

The data includes funding approved prior to FY2015, which is ongoing from FY2015 onward. Since the data includes all grant and contract activities funded by USTDA, the 'Award Mechanism Signing Date' and 'Award End Date' is provided for both funding mechanisms. The period between reservation of funds, obligation of funds and disbursement of funds can vary in length of time for a variety of reasons and the

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disbursement amount serves as the reflection of funds being drawn down in a given quarter.

3. Data Reporting

The data made available for the ForeignAssistance.gov dashboard was produced by reports generated by the TDAMIS database referenced in the previous section. The reports contain data for transactions, including obligations, disbursements, and repayments, beginning in FY2015 and up to the present. USTDA has historically provided annual transactional data for ForeignAssistance.gov, however, submissions have only been made available through the Foreign Aid Explorer (explorer.usaid.gov).

USTDA's activities do not fit into the limited definitions of "Tied Foreign Assistance" as defined by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). USTDA funding has nationality, source and origin requirements, specific to the project preparation services delivered under USTDA's funding (please see USTDA's Authorizing Legislation 22 USCS § 2421). However, the procurements and outcomes resulting from USTDA funding are not tied to U.S. sourcing or financing requirements. USTDA's contract activities are governed by the Foreign Acquisition Regulations (FAR). For purposes of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (FATAA) reporting, USTDA describes assistance as "Untied." USTDA grant funding is paid pursuant to a secondary agreement directly to U.S. companies performing work per the terms of the grant agreement. Given this arrangement in the context of ForeignAssistance.gov definitions of "Implementing Organization" as "...the organization...that receives the funds...to carry out and execute the...assistance....", U.S. companies are named as the implementing organizations.

4. Data Reporting Limitations

As a small, independent Federal agency, significant resources are necessary to fulfill quarterly reporting requirements for ForeignAssistance.gov that complies with OMB 12-01 directed criteria to provide disaggregated financial transaction data based on a specified template. While our database and data submissions contain most of the information requested, duplicative information and other data points can be found on other websites such as USASpending.gov and explorer.usaid.gov. Key fields have been identified for areas of improvement in future submissions to foreignassistance.gov. Those include:

- **DUNS Number** – DUNS numbers for U.S. companies are collected and maintained through Oracle, the FMS used by the Agency. DUNS numbers are available on USASpending.gov. This data point remains an area of improvement for future publications on ForeignAssistance.gov as USTDA determines a systematic approach to collecting and reporting on DUNS numbers for this data submission requirement.

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- **OECD/DAC Sector and U.S. Foreign Assistance Sector Codes** – The Agency has a process for the identification and selection of regional, sector and subsector data. This classification system differs from both DAC and U.S. Foreign Assistance Sector coding systems. Future efforts are planned to determine whether and how to rectify this.
- **Evaluation Data** – The Agency has evaluated 100% of its programming for over a quarter century. The Agency will need additional resources to establish a clearinghouse to publicize this information given the volume and commercial sensitivity of the data.