



U.S. Foreign Assistance Website Consolidation Fact Sheet

U.S. Foreign Assistance Data Overview

The U.S. government operates two websites that serve as repositories for foreign assistance data reported from the over 20 U.S. government agencies that manage foreign assistance programs around the world. The websites, ForeignAssistance.gov and Foreign Aid Explorer, are operated by the Department of State (State) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), respectively, and they each play important roles in advancing the accessibility and transparency of U.S. foreign assistance information for stakeholders. Both sites are frequently visited, highly visual and interactive, and provide the public with useful information and analysis on financial and programmatic trends in foreign assistance spending.

Mandates Addressed



State publishes and visualizes data on **ForeignAssistance.gov** according to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin 12-01 and Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act requirements and fulfills U.S. commitments to the International Aid Transparency Initiative. This data also informs USAID's reporting requirements below.



USAID publishes and visualizes data on **Foreign Aid Explorer** according to requirements from OMB Bulletin 12-01 and the Foreign Assistance Act on the Overseas Loans and Grants report ("Greenbook") and the Organisation for Economic Cooperative and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) reporting commitments.



Challenge

While both websites support foreign assistance reporting and transparency requirements, **differing mandates and methodologies result in each website offering different sets of data for exploration**. This results in confusion among users, impedes the utility of the two websites, and undermines the U.S. government's aid transparency efforts.



Solution To fully address the data differences and ensure the public has access to an authoritative source on foreign assistance funding, **State and USAID are working together to execute a three-phase consolidation solution**. The outcome is an aid transparency reporting and publication process that is agency-validated, accurate, high quality, timely, and fulfills all domestic and international aid transparency requirements.

Benefits

- ✓ Centralized tools and visualizations that enable the public to better understand U.S. foreign assistance investments around the world
- ✓ A one-stop shop that enhances accountability for taxpayer funds and supports data-informed decision making
- ✓ A single-source for data and reporting that is agency-approved and high-quality

Timeline



These three phases will begin by Spring 2020 and conclude by the end of FY 2021. *Please follow us on social media as progress toward these efforts moves forward!*

[@ForeignAsst_gov](#) [@USAID_Data](#)



Consolidation Frequently Asked Questions

What is changing on either website and why?

ForeignAssistance.gov (FA.gov) and Foreign Aid Explorer (FAE) will undergo a process to harmonize data, reduce duplication, and leverage the best features of both websites into a singular source. Neither website is changing in the immediate term – and State and USAID are committed to providing stakeholders with communications and transparency throughout the consolidation process. Quarterly data submissions through ForeignAssistance.gov and annual data verifications through Foreign Aid Explorer will continue as usual in the interim.

What happens next?

The two foreign assistance websites are consolidating into one as a result of a three-phase consolidation plan. Phase 1 begins with a joint information launch across the sites and stakeholder tools, expected for Spring 2020. In Phase 2, State and USAID will establish a joint governance structure around data reconciliation and de-duplication of efforts, and expect to complete by the end of calendar year 2020. Phase 3 will leverage the best features of each site to culminate the merger, expected by the end of FY 2021.

What are the primary differences between each site?

FA.gov publishes timely, agency-provided foreign assistance datasets of obligations and disbursements from FY 2015, with more data in progress and some partial data back to 2006 by fiscal year of financial transaction. FA.gov also provides detailed U.S. foreign assistance budget data for agencies by fiscal year of appropriation. FAE provides complete annual foreign assistance datasets of obligations and disbursements back to 1947 as reported for OECD/DAC and Greenbook through 2018, with some partial data after 2018, by fiscal year of financial transactions. Both sites feature a number of analytics and visualization tools to accompany respective corresponding data. Please refer to ForeignAssistance.gov/consolidation or explorer.USAID.gov/consolidation for further information about distinctions across mandates, publishing frequency, data collected, historic data availability, and publishing methodology.

As an agency, what will happen with my previously reported data?

As part of Phase 2 of the consolidation plan, all agency-submitted data will be reviewed for consistency across both sites to ensure quality and accuracy of the data published. State and USAID will engage agencies regularly and transparently with information on this process as Phase 2 is underway. As needed, changes will be made in consultation with respective agencies beginning with the FY 2020 quarterly reporting processes.

As an end-user, will I still have access to foreign assistance data?

Yes. It is anticipated that all present data will be retained on both ForeignAssistance.gov and [Foreign Aid Explorer](https://ForeignAidExplorer.gov) until the full consolidation plan is implemented by the end of FY 2021.

How can I stay in the loop or support the process?

Follow us on social media: FA.gov and [USAID Data!](https://USAIDData.gov) Or send us an email at ForeignAssistanceWeb@state.gov (FA.gov) or us_aid_data@usaid.gov (FAE).