

# TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FOREIGNASSISTANCE.GOV



1. **Transparency** – ForeignAssistance.gov is the United States Government’s main tool for improving transparency in U.S. foreign assistance spending. Transparency supports the accountability, effectiveness, and improved coordination of our foreign aid programs and enables the public to better understand U.S. foreign assistance investments around the world.
2. **Value** – The Foreign Affairs budget, which includes Foreign Assistance, is one per cent of overall federal spending, but provides support in over 100 countries to further America’s foreign policy interests on issues ranging from expanding free markets, combating extremism, ensuring stable democracies, and addressing the root causes of poverty.
3. **History** – The first U.S. aid program took shape after World War II when the American Government provided significant aid to Europe to assist the continent in rebuilding its infrastructure, strengthening its economy, and stabilizing the region. In 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development, which calls for the elevation of development as a core pillar of American power in accord with diplomacy and defense for an integrated approach to national security.
4. **Data** – ForeignAssistance.gov is updated regularly with new data from across the government to incorporate budget, financial, and award information in a standard format.
5. **Visualizations** – Data is presented through dynamic and colorful maps and graphs. Users can navigate through world maps and filter by sectors, agencies, and years to explore programming and investments occurring around the globe.
6. **Agencies** – Information from ten agencies that represent 98 per cent of the U.S. Government’s foreign assistance portfolio and over \$30 billion in annual distributions can be found on the site. Some of the largest contributors are the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).
7. **Reporting** – All of the data can be downloaded for customized reports to create personalized analysis and visualizations. Datasets are available in Excel, XML, and CSV.
8. **Learning** – To help users understand the site and the data, the website provides overviews on foreign aid, the federal budgeting process, government agencies, and frequently asked questions.
9. **Twitter** – Follow us on Twitter (@ForeignAsst\_gov) for the latest news on the site, open data, and development.
10. **Contact** – Send us an electronic message with questions about the data or to provide feedback.

## Contacts:

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