



User's Guide

Overview

Welcome to Security Assistance Monitor. We have created four public databases on U.S. foreign aid and arms sales in an attempt to enhance the transparency and ultimately improve the accountability and effectiveness of U.S. security assistance.

Our four databases on U.S. foreign aid and Arms Sales are: Security Aid, Economic Aid, Arms Sales, and Trainees, each provides a unique breakdown of the available information, allowing the user to engage with the data in a range of different ways.

For each database, the user can either access the data through the Dashboard, Pivot Table, or Download function:

- Dashboard: a series of interactive visualizations that provide a snap shot of key data points;
- Pivot Table: an interactive table that allows users to view data trends over years by recipient or program; and,
- Download: allows users the ability to download the entire database.

Further down this page, one can access our specific country or program dashboards. The country dashboards include data from our four databases to provide a broad overview of U.S. assistance to the country.

All the data included in these databases originates from U.S. government reports, usually from the State Department and Defense Department. These reports are acquired through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, congressional offices, U.S. government websites, or occasionally Government Accountability Office or Congressional Research Service reports. We will also use recently passed legislation to provide the most up-to-date figures on aid and allow us to fill in gaps when other reporting is currently unavailable.

Although the U.S. government maintains two public databases (Foreign Aid Dashboard and Foreign Aid Explorer) to provide transparency on U.S. foreign aid, these databases do not yet include data on many of the security aid programs, especially programs funded by the Defense Department. Nor do they provide reliable and consistent country-level data.

Our data is not adjusted for inflation but reflects the actual dollars listed in the U.S. government report, which more accurately reflects the value of the equipment and training at that time and allows the user to more easily verify our figures. Below, please find more detail about the methodology we use for each database. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at SAM@ciponline.org.