



WHAT IS U.S. FOREIGN AID AND ARMS SALES?

U.S. foreign aid or assistance is defined by the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961. Under Section 634 of the FAA, foreign assistance is defined as:

"...any tangible or intangible item provided by the United States Government to a foreign country or international organization under this or any other Act, including but not limited to any training, service, or technical advice, any item of real, personal, or mixed property, any agricultural commodity, United States dollars, and any currencies of any foreign country which are owned by the United States Government..." Section 634 of FAA further states that "...provided by the United States Government" includes, but is not limited to, foreign assistance provided by means of gift, loan, sale, credit, or guaranty."

In our data, we divide foreign aid into two categories, Economic Aid and Security Aid. Economic aid consists of foreign aid for programs with a development or humanitarian objective. Development aid programs focus on sustainable, broad-based economic progress and sociopolitical stability, while humanitarian aid programs focus on the immediate alleviation of humanitarian emergencies, both natural and man-made disasters, as well as problems resulting from conflict associated with failed or failing states. Economic aid includes programs funded through the State Department and its subsidiary the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as well as non-security programs funded by the U.S. Defense Department

Since 2001, U.S. security aid has grown significantly both in the number of programs and the amount of funding to address a range of U.S. national security and foreign policy goals abroad. Traditionally, security aid was funded by the State Department and implemented by the Defense Department. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, the United States provided \$5.7 billion in security aid, with over 60 percent of the aid going to Israel and Egypt and just 16 percent funded by the Defense Department. Compare that to FY2017, where over \$20 billion in security aid was provided, the two countries are only receiving 25 percent of the overall aid, and 55 percent will be funded by the Defense Department.

In addition, over the past two decades, Congress has provided an increasing number of authorities or programs, in an attempt to allow the administration new opportunities to address U.S. goals. But it has also created confusion about the nature and extent of U.S. security assistance.

Data Collection

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.