

Open-access, Tracking Funds for Global Health Security: Publicizing funding for mutual accountability and coordination of efforts



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Abstract

The United States is joined with approximately 55 other nations and the World Health Organization (WHO), Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) with the goal of strengthening global capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat of infectious diseases. In addition to this effort, many countries and other funders have been actively investing in global health security more broadly. Despite the coordinated approach to funding within the GHSA, there is currently no well-established method to track the commitment and disbursal of funds for global health security from funders to recipients, or to identify the activities being supported by existing funding initiatives. Here, we present a method and corresponding results of network mapping in an interactive web-based dashboard to analyze and track funds for global health security. By mapping the flow of funds from donor to recipient, and by categorizing the target efforts of those funds, we can identify patterns of influence and success in global health security funding implementation. We can also highlight gaps by identifying areas in which funds have not yet been effectively allocated, which provides an evidence-based approach for defining targets for future funding. This platform and effort will serve as the basis for mutual accountability within the global health security community, promoting public accounting and providing an opportunity for countries, organizations, and other funders to showcase their successes and identify priorities for future investments.

Introduction

Global health security requires international and cross-sector partnerships to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. Ensuring adequate funding for health security initiatives is critical for the advancement of global health security, and requires awareness of the current status of funding. The global health security tracking dashboard was developed to allow countries, NGOs, and policy experts to better understand who is funding what, and where, in the broad context of global health security. By mapping the flow of committed and disbursed funds for global health security, the tracking dashboard will provide the information necessary for users to:

- Identify funding requirements
- Develop a compelling case for investment
- Identify funding requirements and prioritize future funding decisions
- Promote a mutual accountability framework for GHS funding, in which partners agree to be held responsible for the commitments that they have voluntarily made to each other

Results (www.tracking.ghscosting.org)

Figure 1: Global Map of Recipients of Committed Funds

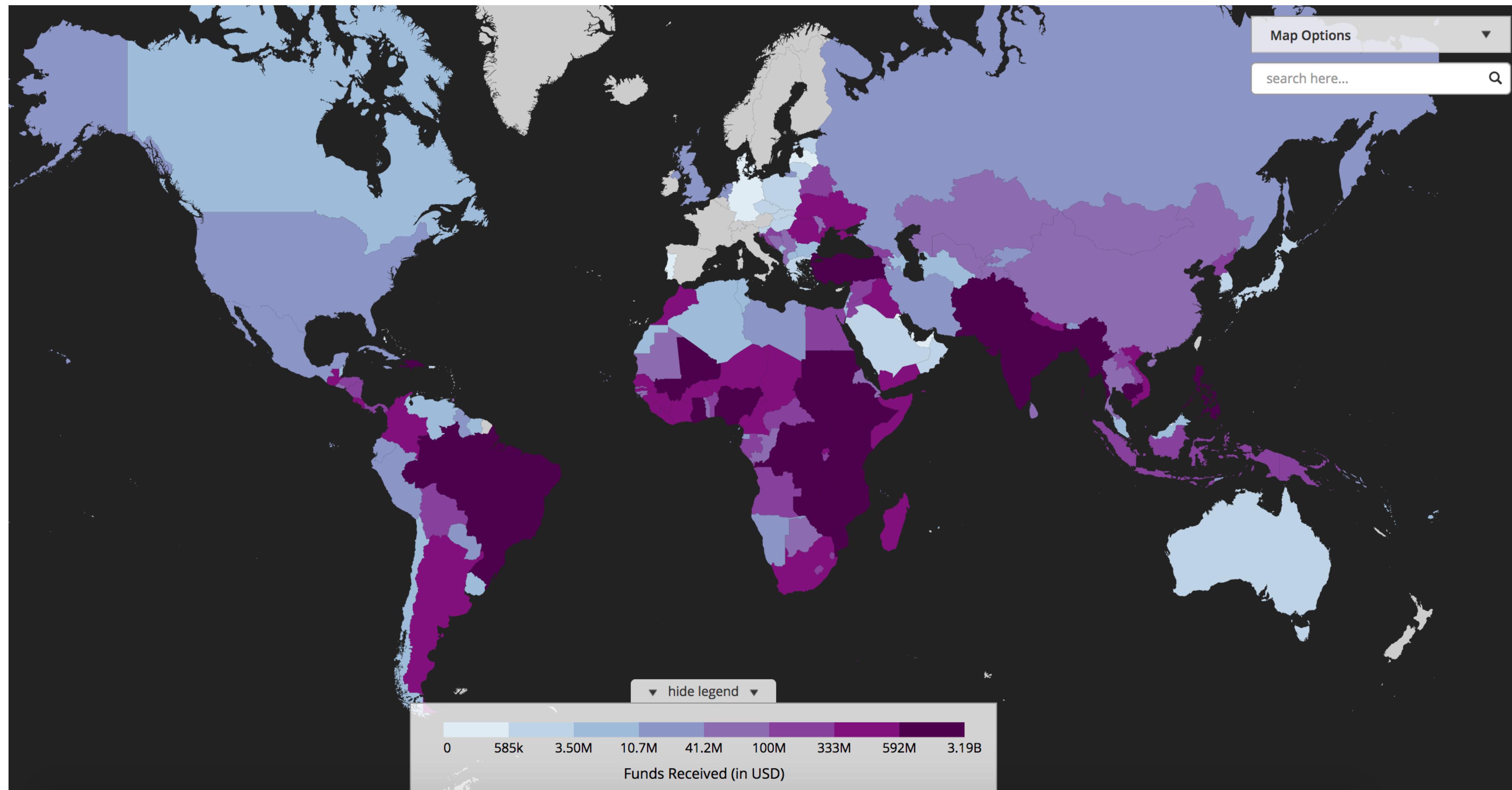


Figure 4: International Funding Network

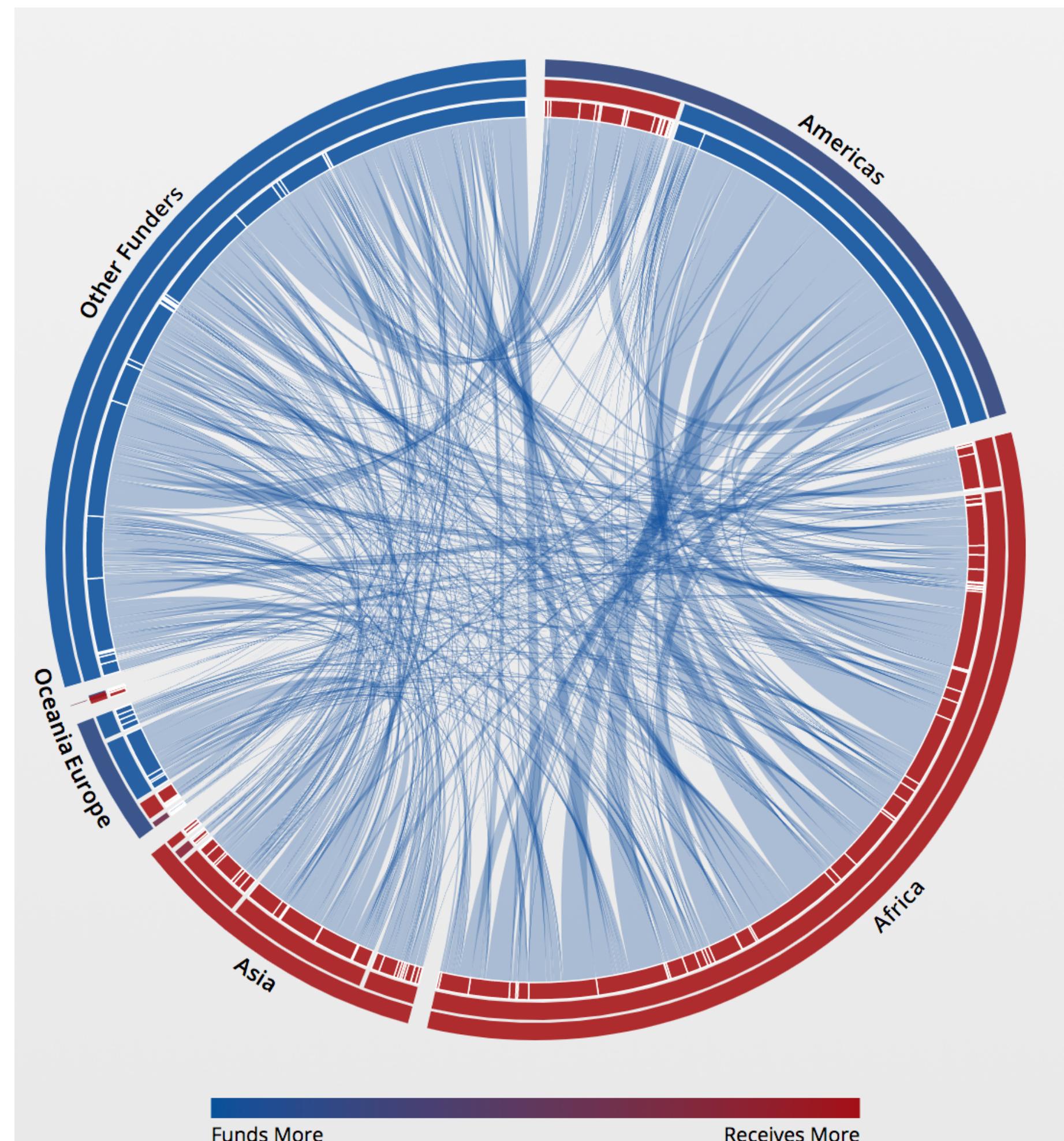


Figure 5: Funds Disbursed by Core Capacity

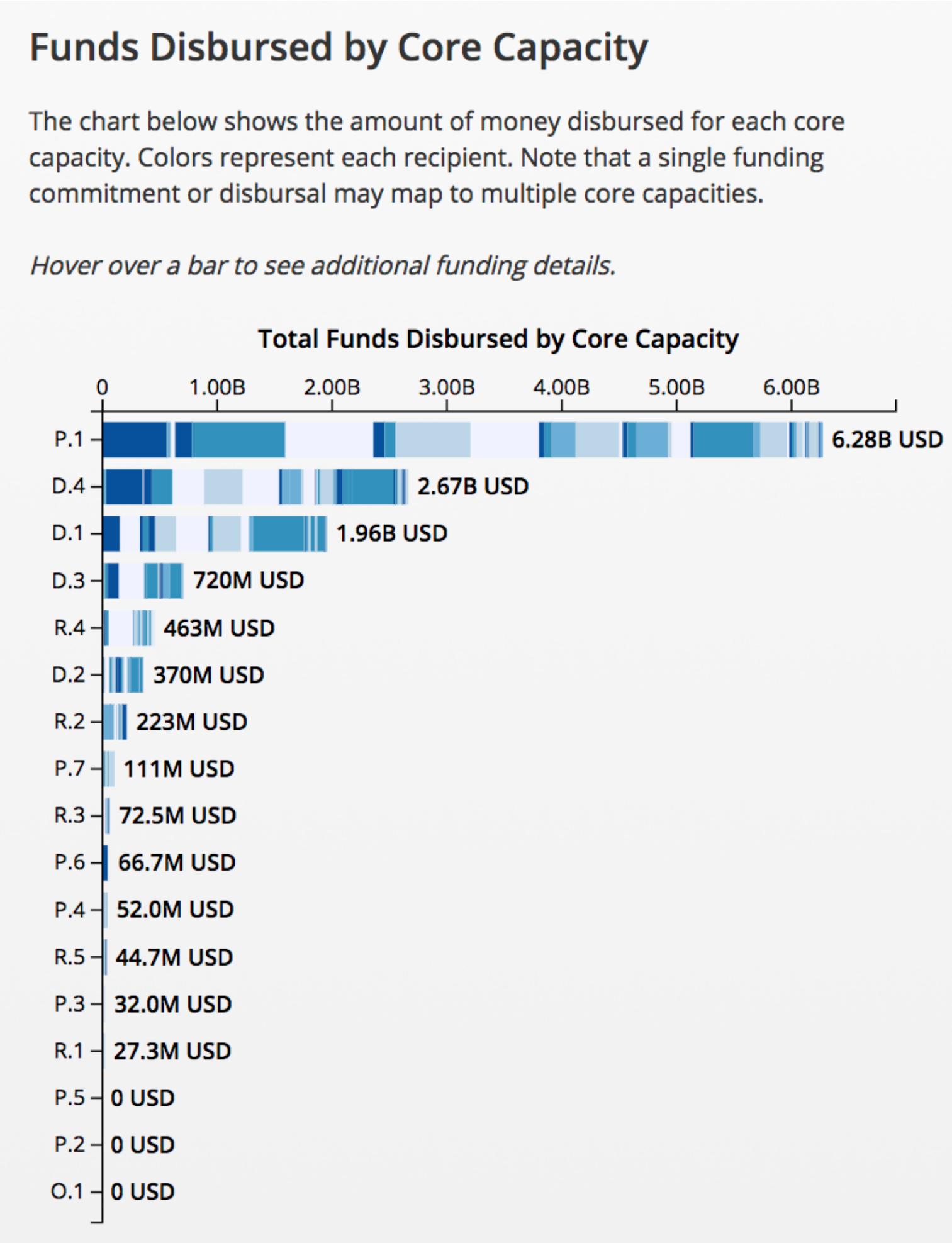


Figure 2: Funding Disbursed by Country

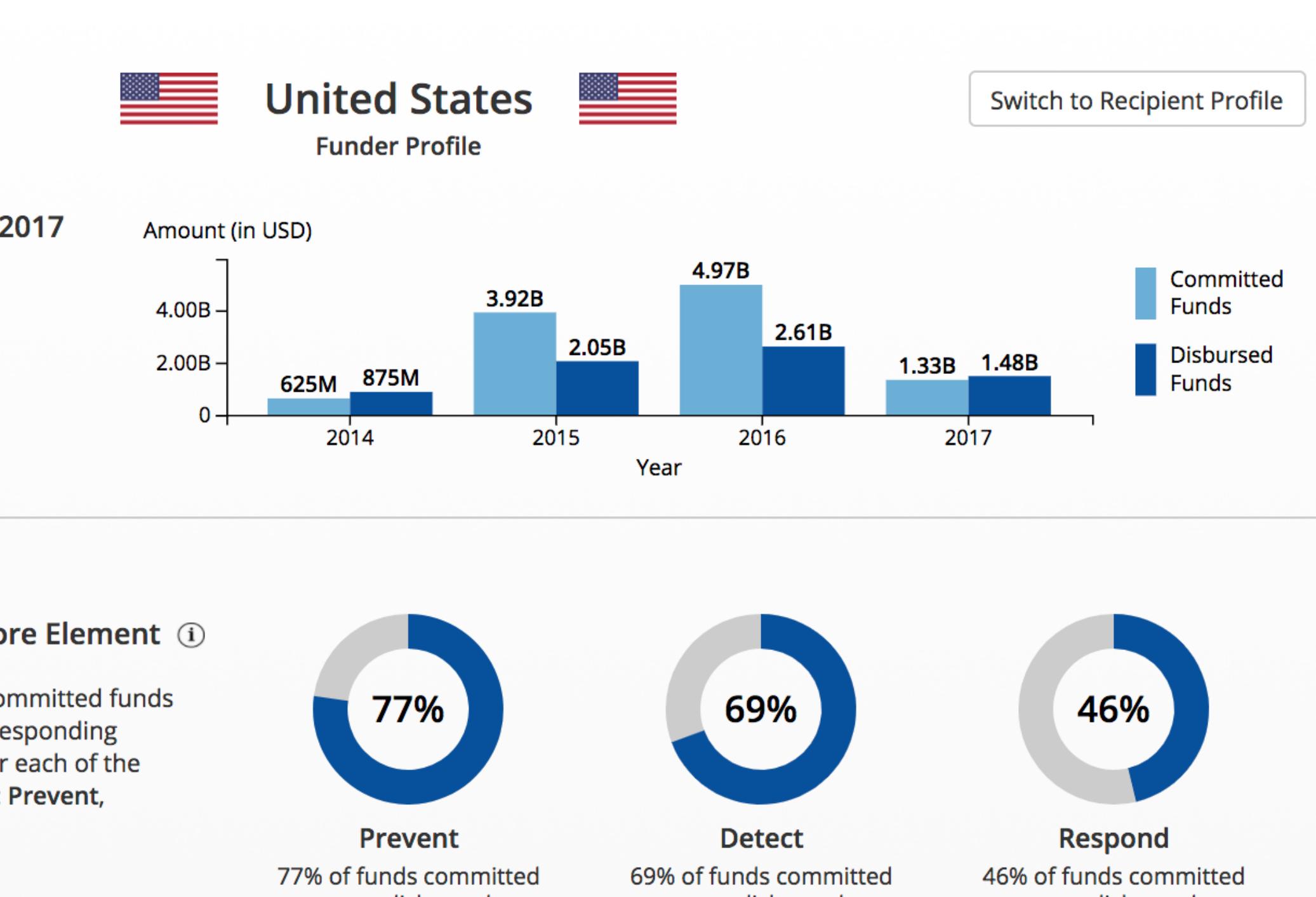


Figure 3: Funding Received by Country

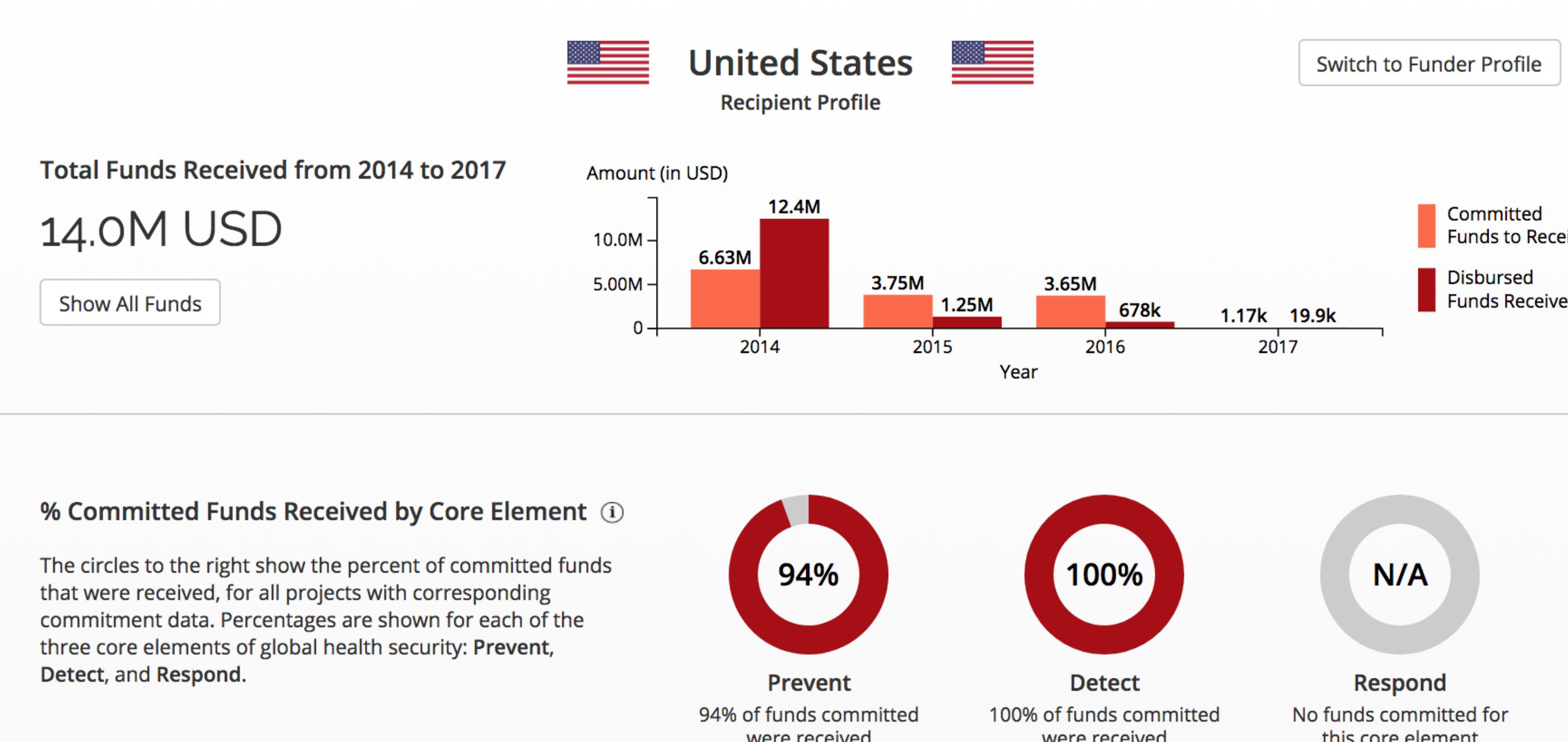


Figure 6: Submit Data

Submit Data for Multiple Projects

Project data may be submitted using the form below. An empty form can be downloaded by clicking "Download Project Report Template".

Using the structure of the project report template, please update the file with relevant, project-level information. Upload completed reports by clicking "Upload Completed Project Report" and selecting the location where the file is saved on your computer.

Data will be reviewed before being incorporated into the tool.

[Download Project Report Template](#)

[Upload Completed Project Report](#)

Methods

- To identify available data, the team completed a review of resources currently available to track GHS funding. Based on the contents of currently available data resources, a database structure was developed to capture information on donors, recipients, projects, and transactions. Funding data from 2014 to 2017 were accessed from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) via a public API. Transactions were mapped to core capacities by using a lookup table and selected string searches of project titles and descriptions.
- Developed proof of principle GHS Tracking Dashboard, an interactive, web-based user interface that allows users to visualize funding commitments and disbursals graphically and geospatially, and to explore data by donor, and recipient, and core capability. Provided access to the tool for review and public comment.
- Countries provide data using an online collection tool, which allows users to download a blank project report template. This template can be populated with transaction information offline and then re-uploaded into the tool. Data will be reviewed collaboratively through calls/in person meetings to verify the accuracy and ensure transparency
- Data updates will be requested annually, or whenever made available.

Conclusions

- The GHS Tracking Dashboard provides a publicly-available, shared resource to track GHS funding commitments and disbursals. This interactive, web-based dashboard supports analysis by experts in public policy, financing, global public health, and economic policy to encourage a mutual accountability framework that promotes broader implementation and can be used to define metrics for GHS successes.
- Provides an open source tool to visualize information about international global health security funding through the use of a single data collection tool and interactive dashboard.
- The platform is designed to highlight success stories, identify gaps, communicate needs in region-specific and target-specific funding, and provide a forum for mutual accountability.

Acknowledgements

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