



**2020
impact report**



International Centre
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN



Dear friends of ICMEC,

As we reflect on 2020, the strength and resolve of our global community has never been more apparent. We have shown that when we work together, we can create hope in even the most challenging circumstances.

This past year has been difficult for so many. But the global pandemic has been especially devastating for children around the world – isolated at home and more vulnerable to online exploitation and abuse. While governments were focused on stopping the spread of COVID-19, those who seek to harm children have been busy exploiting the closure of schools and increased usage of the internet.

Thanks to your steadfast support, ICMEC accelerated our work in 2020 to boldly confront the new challenges facing our world’s children. In the report that follows, you will view videos and read updates on our global fight to create a safer world for children, including adapting an exclusively virtual training model to train and equip more than 45,000 educators, law enforcement, and healthcare providers with the tools and resources needed to continue defending children.

But our proudest moment from the last year was a phone call from our partners in Guatemala in November. 19-day-old baby Elieth Samara had been abducted. Our team, together with dozens of dedicated partners around the globe, sprang into action and Elieth was safely recovered within 33 hours. This was the culmination of more than 5 years of partnership in Guatemala to establish an emergency child alerting system and train law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

We hope you’ll [watch Elieth Samara’s story](#) and know that your support is helping bring more children just like Elieth back to safety and rescue others from the pain of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Our work is only possible with your support.

Bob Cunningham
President & CEO
International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children



Found: A Story of Hope

Every year we work to protect millions of children from the threats of sexual exploitation, abuse and going missing. Those are millions of minds vulnerable, millions of hearts exploited, millions of families torn apart.

Elieth Samara was one of those children. At just 19 days old, this beautiful baby girl was abducted in Guatemala.

Baby Elieth was found and returned to the safety of her mother's arms thanks to a coordinated investigation assisted by ICMEC, which called upon dozens of trained professionals around the globe. Elieth's safe recovery follows more than five years of work in Guatemala, where ICMEC has partnered to establish a foundation for effective child protection standards.

“This case which was momentous for us, has without a doubt made history not just for the public ministry but also for Guatemala, where we have been able to prove that if we work together and alongside such important allies as ICMEC, we can get results like this.”

– Ruby Monzón, Head Prosecutor in the Office of Crimes Against Children



ELIETH SAMARA'S STORY

watch the video»

2016

ICMEC begins providing criminal justice training in Guatemala on effective response, investigation and prosecution in cases of missing children or child sexual exploitation. To date, ICMEC has provided more than 15 training sessions in Guatemala on child protection and missing children.

Guatemala forms Latin America's first Specialized Unit Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation within the Public Ministry in the Prosecutor's Office Against Human Trafficking.



2019

ICMEC introduces Facebook rapid emergency alerts in Guatemala to enhance the national response and engage the general public in the search for missing children in the most urgent cases.

March 2021

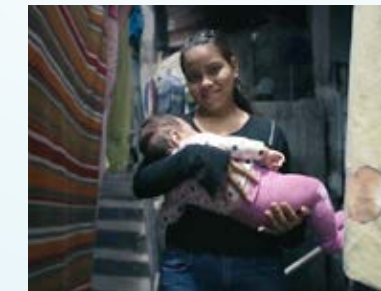
ICMEC's partnership continues in Guatemala with the signing of a work agreement to enhance the effectiveness of Guatemala's Special Unit Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation and to assess and improve the child protection standards and processes in Guatemala.

2017



Guatemala becomes a member of ICMECs Global Missing Children's Network. ICMEC develops protocols for the effective use of Guatemala's AMBER-style emergency alert system, Alba-Keneth Alerts.

November 2020



The abduction of Elieth Samara requires dozens of professionals to call upon their training; Alba-Keneth Alerts are issued; Facebook rapid emergency alerts are deployed for only the 2nd time ever Guatemala; ICMEC is called upon to offer in-person support throughout the investigation – all of which lead to the safe recovery of Elieth in 33 hours.

Our Unique Approach

ICMEC is committed to creating a safer world for every child. One where no child has to suffer from sexual exploitation, abuse, or the risk of going missing.

In order to create truly lasting change, we seek to influence the complex systems that protect our children, including:

- advocating for enhanced law and policy
- developing systems to bring missing children to safety
- mobilizing industries to secure their technologies and platforms from becoming vehicles for abuse and exploitation
- providing tools and training for criminal justice professionals to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of exploitation, abuse or children who are missing
- safeguarding school environments
- empowering healthcare professionals to recognize and respond to signs of abuse, trafficking or exploitation

Today, at any given time, ICMEC is working with dozens of countries committed to building or improving upon the systems to prevent and respond to cases of missing children, child sexual exploitation, or abuse. Through research, we identify gaps in international child protection systems that leave children vulnerable. Where gaps exist, we train professionals to protect children from harm and foster conditions for systemic change. We convene regional technology and financial coalitions that are dedicated to keeping children – and corporate platforms – safe.

ICMEC’s unique value is in our comprehensive approach and ability to influence and inspire the global community – regardless of country, industry, sector, or profession – toward the common goal of building a safer world for all children.

The Impact of COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic all forms of online child sexual abuse and exploitation saw an increase due to more exposure to growing online risks combined with limited access to community support services – including those medical providers, childcare, and school personnel who often play a key role in detecting cases. According to INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock, “we are seeing just the tip of a growing iceberg in terms of online child exploitation material.”

The U.S.’s National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a frequent collaborator with ICMEC, received 21.7 million reports of suspected online exploitation in 2020 – up 4.7 million from 2019. Those reports represent more than 65 million images, videos, and other files. These reports come from every country and territory around the world, from Guatemala (120,000 reports in 2020) to Iraq (920,000) to India (2.7 million). No country is immune.

In addition to increased risk online, experts are warning of a “silent pandemic” of abuse in the home. In March 2020, the U.S.’s national sexual assault hotline, RAINN, reported a 22 percent spike in calls to their hotline from people younger than 18.

Children, especially migrant children in many countries, went missing as the systems in place to protect them broke down. Children away from schools were physically separated from non-family adults who help monitor for signs of domestic violence and can intervene to protect children. Psychological stressors from prolonged lockdowns across the globe resulted

in increased domestic violence, incidences of children running away, and suicide. Feelings of isolation, despondency and depression increased among vulnerable children and many sought solace and friendship online, resulting in a skyrocketed number of cases of online exploitation.

Our Response

Despite the challenges of the past year, we accelerated our work. ICMEC immediately focused on supporting front-line professionals in child protection through webinars, podcasts, videos, and live online training. Through these virtual learning sessions, ICMEC provided training to more than 45,000 law enforcement professionals, healthcare workers and educators in 2020.

We also equipped international schools and educators with more than 100 resources specifically addressing the challenges of COVID-19 including adapting to virtual learning environments and helping students cope with stress.



WHAT DRIVES ICMEC'S DAILY WORK TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

[watch the video»](#)





“We have to confront the reality that any child can go missing at any time. And that we all have a unique role to play in finding that child.”

– Caroline Humer,
ICMEC Vice President
of Global Alliances

Powering the Search for Missing Children

Everyday, in every corner of the world, children go missing. Some taken from their home, some abandoned, some running away from a home that is not safe. We believe that every missing child deserves to be seen, searched for, and returned to safety because missing children are inherently vulnerable to further abuse, exploitation, or even death. Together, we are committed to fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.



Global Missing Children's Network

For two decades, the Global Missing Children's Network (GMCN) has worked to unite the global community in the search for missing children, sharing the tools, training, resources for governments, law enforcement, NGOs, and families on prevention as well as the appropriate actions to take in the event a child does go missing. The GMCN has grown to span 30 countries across 5 continents.

In 2020, we welcomed France's Droit D'Enfance as the newest member country of the Global Missing Children's Network, signaling the expanding commitment of the global community to prevent and respond to children who are missing.

The GMCNginer™

The GMCNginer™ is the world's largest missing child alerting system, powering the search for missing children across country borders. This technology empowers global users to share leads and case information, digitally distribute missing child information to the public, generate leads for investigators using facial recognition to match missing child photos against scraped data from the clear and dark webs, and create geo-targeted alerts of missing children.

Since the platform was launched in 2019, the GMCNginer™ has:



generated over
6.8 BILLION VIEWS
of online missing child alerts



MOTIVATED 2.6 MILLION
people to read full case details on ICMEC's
dedicated global missing children's website



assisted with the recovery of more than
1,575 MISSING CHILDREN

Thank you to our partners First Factory, Federation for Internet Alerts, Amazon Web Services, WebIQ, and Biometrica for helping to power this life-saving technology.

Empowering Professionals in Child Protection

ICMEC exists to equip the champions for children with the knowledge and resources they need to be as effective as possible in protecting children. We provide tools, training, and technology to governments, criminal justice professionals, policymakers, educators, healthcare providers, industry, civil society, and others across the globe with one goal in mind: to make the world a safer place for all children.

Global Criminal Justice Training for Child Protection Professionals

The criminal justice system plays a critical role in defending the safety of our world's children. Since 2003, ICMEC has offered training to police officers, investigators, prosecutors, and other international specialists across more than 128 countries to improve their response to child protection issues.

In 2020, ICMEC provided training to more than 45,000 criminal justice professionals, equipping them with the tools to effectively identify, investigate and prosecute cases of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, missing, or online sexual abuse material.

In partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, ICMEC conducted a 12-week virtual training, "Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Comprehensive Perspective," which reached more than 1,000 participants across 44 countries.

Supporting Healthcare Professionals


Child sexual abuse and exploitation is pervasive throughout the world and can have detrimental implications on a child's

physical and mental health. Children who are sexually abused or exploited are more likely to struggle with drug and alcohol abuse, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, sexually transmitted disease, asthma, chronic bronchitis, diabetes, cancer, and stroke. It is crucial that healthcare professionals recognize and know how to treat child victims of exploitation and abuse. Through tailored online resources and in-person trainings, ICMEC equips healthcare professionals with training, research, and resources on child abuse, sexual violence, neglect, and trafficking.

ICMEC established the Indian Child Protection Medical Professional Network, a growing collaboration of more than 80 physicians working to improve the prevention, recognition and response to child sexual abuse and exploitation and human trafficking in India. Thanks to the efforts of this network, nearly 1 million children in India are now seen by doctors who are paying attention to the signs of abuse and trafficking.

In 2020, we launched the online *HealthPortal* containing the latest research, tools and self-paced e-learning modules to train healthcare professionals on topics including "The Healthcare Response to Human Trafficking" and "Trauma-Informed Care in Child Sexual Abuse."

In conjunction with Heal Trafficking, we published a new resource, *Documenting ICD Codes and Other Sensitive Information in Electronic Health Records* to equip healthcare providers with practical guidelines and real-world scenarios for documenting sexual abuse in medical records.



"Those heroes out there on the frontlines protecting children are doing their part. They need our support. They need our help. They need us to back them. That is what ICMEC is here for."

– Bob Cunningham,
ICMEC President & CEO

Empowering Educators in Child Protection

Educators are in a unique position to identify abuse and exploitation. They have a duty to ensure that the school environment is a safe place for children to grow and thrive. Our Global Educator Centre for Excellence provides training, support, and resources for educators to safeguard children in the classroom and increase child protection standards in schools around the world. Since 2016, the U.S. Department of State has provided funding for ICMEC to implement child protection strategies in U.S.-sponsored international schools worldwide. ICMEC has provided training to more than 2,000 school professionals across 87 countries, positively impacting nearly 900,000 students across the world.

Working in collaboration with the International Task Force on Child Protection, and with support from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools, ICMEC curates a comprehensive clearinghouse of online resources for educators focused on how to prevent and

respond to child abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation. Our more than 400 open source resources for child-serving organizations continue to address resource and knowledge gaps. The [ICMEC Education Portal](#) is used by tens of thousands of educators around the world for model practice and leading-edge guidance. With resources in English, Spanish, and increasingly, additional languages, schools from Lima to Hong Kong report that they have created their entire child protection program using Education Portal resources.

In 2020, we equipped international schools and educators with more than 100 resources specifically addressing the challenges of COVID-19 including adapting to virtual learning environments and helping students cope with stress. Our interactive training modules were converted into an online experience to provide training to more than 200 professionals in charge of developing policies within schools, aimed at creating long-term systematic change.

Disrupting the Mechanics of Child Sexual Exploitation

In order to prevent future abuse, ICMEC focuses on identifying and disrupting the systems that enable sexual exploitation to occur. We conduct original research and partner with leading technology companies and the financial industry to identify and develop global solutions that protect children from sexual abuse, exploitation, and risk of going missing.

Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy

We advocate for changes in laws, treaties, and systems to protect children worldwide. Through The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy, we conduct original research into a wide range of issues related to child protection and the status of child protection laws, policies, and best practices around the world. By creating replicable legal tools, promoting best practices, building international coalitions, and collaborating with partners in the field to identify and measure threats to children, we change the way children are protected around the world.

Technical Guidance Resource on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse»

Produced with Child Helpline International, this resource aims to ensure legal and judicial systems are strengthened in relation to online violence, more specifically, online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Guidelines for Policy-makers on Child Online Protection»

ICMEC is a proud contributor to the International Telecommunications Union 2020 publication of Guidelines for policy-makers, a usable, flexible and adaptable framework firmly based on international standards and shared goals of keeping children safe online.

Financial Coalitions Against Child Sexual Exploitation

In 2020, more than 21.7 million reports of suspected child sexual abuse material were reported to the U.S.'s National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber TipLine. The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) collaborates with financial industry partners, law enforcement, governments, and other partners to fight the online sale and dissemination of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

“Through the Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation, ICMEC has created a collaborative and inclusive environment through which ICMEC leadership and members can share their respective and diverse expertise in order to support the defense and safe recovery of children.”

– Catherine Maritzel, Vice President of Acquiring Fraud Investigations and Controls, Fiserv

ICMEC's U.S. Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FCACSE) was launched in 2006, bringing together dozens of financial institutions to disrupt offenders using traditional payment methods. In 2009, ICMEC launched the Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (APFC) to expand these efforts to Asia and bring together regional stakeholders. As a result of both coalition's work, the use of credit cards to purchase child sexual abuse material online has been virtually eliminated.

Our work has expanded to evaluate the use of emerging currencies including cryptocurrencies and blockchain in the purchase of CSAM.

We also facilitated collaboration between Financial Coalition members and law enforcement to assist in cases related to missing and abducted children in the United States. Ten companies now participate in the Rapid Response program and have provided assistance in the recovery of five children.

“Capital One has benefited tremendously from the innovative and collaborative approach that ICMEC takes to combat child sexual exploitation. Most recently, ICMEC facilitated an industry-leading, breakthrough initiative which has been directly credited with the rescue of numerous endangered children.”

– Kevin Toth, Manager, Anti-Money Laundering Special Investigations Unit, Capital One





Impact by the Numbers



120+

The number of countries where we have worked.



60,000+

The number of criminal justice professionals, educators, and healthcare professionals we've trained worldwide.



900,000

We have provided training to 2,000 school professionals across 87 countries, impacting nearly 900,000 students across the world.



220+

Reports and original research projects on child protection issues conducted by ICMEC.



19

We've helped 19 countries develop Rapid Emergency Child Alert Systems similar to AMBER Alert in the United States.



30

The number of countries represented by ICMEC's Global Missing Children's Network, which offers resources to support the search for missing children globally.



150

The number of countries that have refined or implemented new anti-child sexual abuse material laws since ICMEC's *Child Sexual Abuse Material: Model Legislation & Global Review* was first published in 2006.

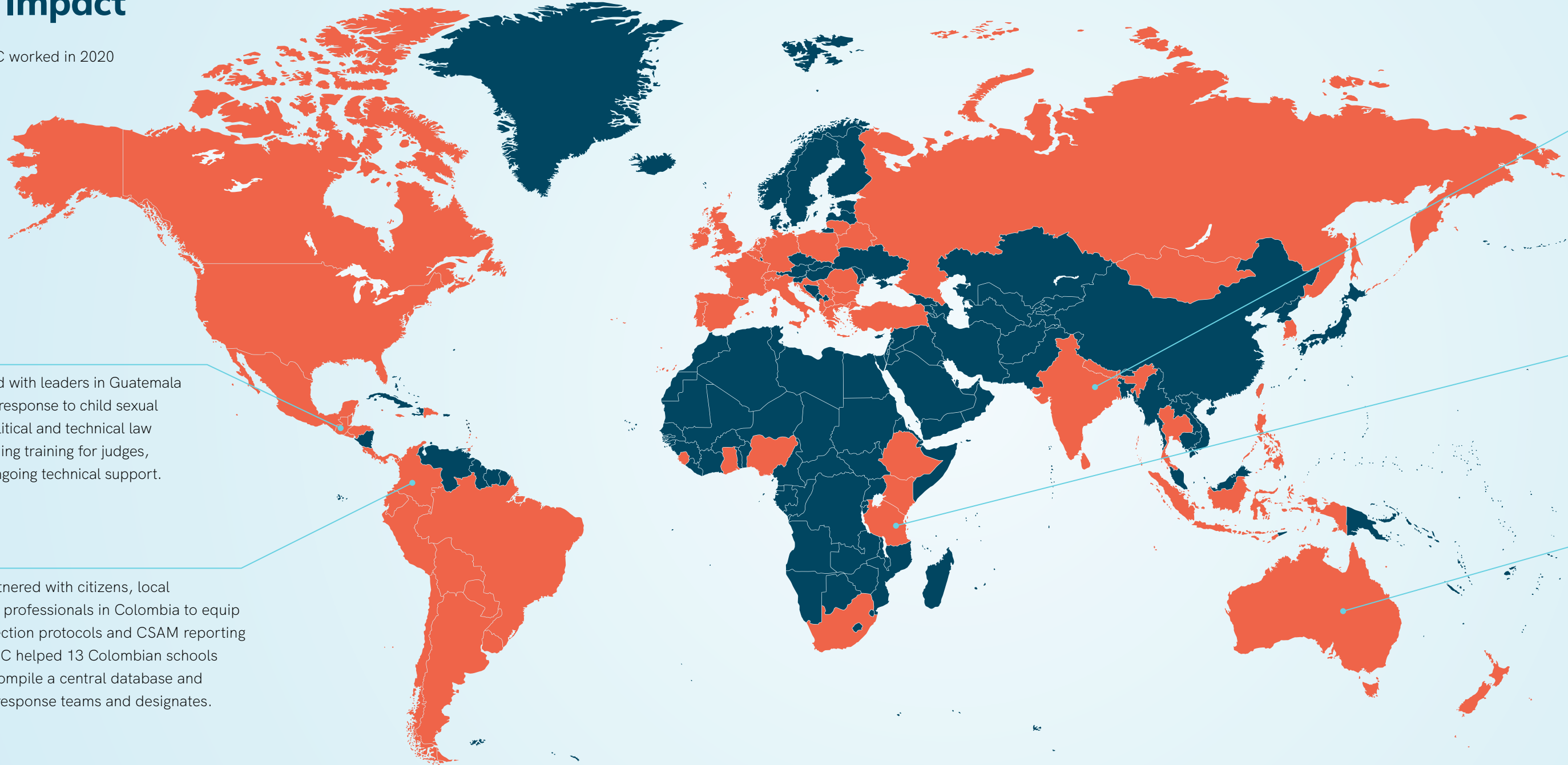


1 million

ICMEC's India Child Protection Medical Professional Network is a national network of over 80 medical professionals across India working to improve the prevention, recognition and response to child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking. Thanks to the efforts of this network, nearly 1 million children in India are now seen by doctors who are paying attention to the signs of abuse and trafficking when they seek medical care.

Our Global Impact

■ Countries where ICMEC worked in 2020



Guatemala

In 2020, ICMEC collaborated with leaders in Guatemala to develop a model national response to child sexual exploitation. We built out political and technical law enforcement capacity, including training for judges, providing technology, and ongoing technical support.

Colombia

Since 2012, ICMEC has partnered with citizens, local organizations and education professionals in Colombia to equip schools, develop child protection protocols and CSAM reporting mechanisms. In 2020, ICMEC helped 13 Colombian schools create protection policies, compile a central database and implement child protection response teams and designates.

India

In 2020, ICMEC partnered with healthcare professionals in India to conduct workshops and monthly webinars on healthcare response to child abuse, neglect, child sexual violence and trafficking, including the specific challenges that COVID-19 poses. This work built on ICMEC’s previous work in India, creating a network of over 80 physicians to improve the healthcare response to child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Tanzania

In 2020, ICMEC partnered with End Violence Against Children to expand its work fighting child exploitation into Tanzania. ICMEC conducted trainings and roundtables with national stakeholders and Child Helpline International to build momentum towards child sexual exploitation awareness and identify partners in the region.

Australia

ICMEC established a formal working group in Australia to combat online child sexual exploitation. The working group includes representation from law enforcement, regulators, financial institutions, NGOs, and digital technology providers who will work together to develop practical, local solutions to strengthen national strategies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute child sexual exploitation and abuse.

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Financials

Consolidated Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2019

	2020			2019
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Contributions and grants	\$ 2,435,228	\$ 97,000	\$ 2,532,228	\$ 1,277,769
Investment income	2,634	-	2,634	80,615
Contributed services	-	-	-	1,843
Program revenue	196,715	-	196,715	-
Gala	-	137,605	137,605	318,234
Other revenue	-	-	-	32,392
Net assets released from donor restrictions	575,071	(575,071)	-	-
Total support and revenue	3,209,648	(340,466)	2,869,182	1,710,853
EXPENSES				
Program Services	2,373,574	-	2,373,574	2,880,892
Supporting Services:				
Management and General	432,042	-	432,042	564,918
Fundraising	567,502	-	567,502	364,787
Total supporting services	999,544	-	999,544	929,705
Total expenses	3,373,118	-	3,373,118	3,810,597
Change in net assets	(163,470)	(340,466)	(503,936)	(2,099,744)
Net assets (deficit) at beginning of year	(690,457)	1,224,657	534,200	2,633,944
Net Assets (Deficit) at End of Year	\$ (853,927)	\$ 884,191	\$ 30,264	\$ 534,200

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2019

	2020				2019	
	Program Services	Supporting Services			Total Expenses	Total Expenses
Management and General		Fundraising	Total Supporting Services			
Salaries and fringe benefits	\$ 897,125	\$ 150,907	\$ 33,788	\$ 184,695	\$ 1,081,820	\$ 1,688,536
Professional and contract fees	606,089	223,767	447,795	671,562	1,277,651	1,028,333
Travel	52,330	1,229	13,130	14,359	66,689	252,337
Supplies and deliveries	257,355	5,975	8,482	14,457	271,812	114,516
Occupancy and building costs	163,887	29,252	33,752	63,004	226,891	228,984
Outreach	164,517	-	-	-	164,517	199,109
Trainings/roundtables/conferences	84,858	-	-	-	84,858	493,274
Amortization	82,102	14,824	17,105	31,929	114,031	80,291
Other	65,311	6,088	13,450	19,538	84,849	52,295
Subtotal	2,373,574	432,042	567,502	999,544	3,373,118	4,137,675
Direct costs of special events	-	-	-	-	-	(327,078)
Total	\$ 2,373,574	\$ 432,042	\$ 567,502	\$ 999,544	\$ 3,373,118	\$ 3,810,597



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