

ICMEC envisions a world where children can grow up safe from exploitation, abuse, or the risk of going missing. We believe every child deserves a safe childhood.



## Why ICMEC Exists

ICMEC is an organization that makes the world a safer place for children by tackling complex issues related to missing children, child sexual abuse, and child sexual exploitation.

The vulnerability of missing children is terrifying, the ways children are abused are horrifying, and the exploitation of children by adults is heart wrenching.

We know these terrible situations impact children at every age, in every nation, and of every ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic class. Failure to protect children is the failure of our society as a whole, and each of us has a social, an intellectual, and a moral imperative to do what we can to make the world safer for all children.



Looking back on a year's work is always an interesting exercise because it gives us a chance to think about the context of our work in addition to the activities in which we engaged. 2022 saw travel rebound to near prepandemic levels, but the impact of the pandemic on child protection is still just coming into focus. We know there was an explosion in online child sexual abuse and that the live-streaming of sexual content involving minors grew significantly, as did the amount of self-generated content by minors. With the opening of international airways now behind us, we also now expect to see child trafficking for sexual purposes increase again, especially given the economic and social devastation the pandemic caused for regions that have traditionally struggled to combat trafficking.

These trends have made it even more important for ICMEC to engage stakeholders across the public and private sectors to help countries build their capacities for better protecting children. Our efforts often begin with a comprehensive multi-sectoral assessment, which we have now used to assist several countries examine gaps in their systems for protecting children from Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE), including in the specific areas mentioned above. This past year, in Honduras, we conducted our first parallel assessment on systems for aiding missing children. We look forward to working with countries to prioritize and address the gaps that were identified and to working with additional partner countries to better understand gaps in their systems in the coming year. I was very happy to have made a trip to meet with officials in one such country, El Salvador, for my own first post-pandemic international travel in 2022.

In response to the needs of our partner countries, and given the trends we have seen in OCSE, we redoubled our efforts globally to train, both virtually and now again in-person, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges in best practices for investigating and for bringing aggressors to justice. We were also thrilled to launch a new signature program that takes our training a step further, the development of Specialized Police Units to Combat OCSE in India.

Now, with the end of another year and knowing that there is so much more to be done, I thank you once again for all you do to support ICMEC and our work on behalf of children around the world. These past few years have been devastating, but together we will ensure that children and families can maintain hope that the future will grow nothing but brighter and safer as we move into 2023.

With continued gratitude and optimism,

**Bob Cunningham** 

President & CEO
International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children



August 2022, ICMEC CEO Bob Cunningham with Vice President Félix Ulloa of El Salvador



## Who is ICMEC?

### **OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS**

ICMEC is the only global child protection organization with the means to execute across three critical strategic pillars:



addressing missing children's issues



disrupting the means of child sexual exploitation



improving nations' capabilities for the protection of children

In each of our strategic pillars, we focus our work on specific areas and create impactful, scalable, and fundable cornerstone projects.

### Our Program Areas

Our work focuses on three primary program areas, including National Capacity Building, Policy and Business Sector Engagement, and Research and Thought Leadership. Each program area includes initiatives across our three strategic pillars, and we are prepared to grow our existing initiatives, to replicate existing initiatives in other places, and to innovate for greater impact in each program area to increase our impact across our pillars.

### **National Capacity Building**

We empower the global community to create systematic and sustainable protections for children at the national and state level. We facilitate and strengthen multisectoral, strategic response and assist in the development of coordinated systems, policies, and capabilities. We promote investment in child protection by governments and the business sector.



### **Policy and Business Sector Engagement**

We engage with multilateral organizations and with groups of businesses to develop policies and promote information sharing and collective action for protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation, disrupting processes related to the sexual exploitation of children, and addressing issues around missing children.



### **Research and Thought Leadership**

We improve national, regional, and global responses to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and to issues related to missing children by developing and disseminating ideas that foster greater awareness and understanding of critical issues, prompt the creation of better approaches, and provide the rationale for collective action. We assemble and draw insights and conclusions from existing information and generate new knowledge to inform the field at large as well as our own program initiatives.



Partnerships and Opportunity Development are also key components of each program area. Through these efforts, we identify influencers, key political leaders and project partners who can help to advance our work around the world. Our work in a specific region is defined by the interest and level of engagement in a particular country. We also seek to identify locations where our work can be done most effectively and have the greatest impact.

### **Our Core Competencies**

Within our program areas, we tackle critical issues related to missing children, child sexual abuse, and child sexual exploitation through our core competencies:

- Engaging stakeholders and partners across government, business, and civil society sectors
- > Training professionals who are in the best positions to protect children
- Conducting research that explains legal contexts, clarifies issues, and identifies best practices
- Developing resources and tools that can be used to better protect children

"There is no one solution for how to best protect our children. It will take each of us bringing all we know and doing all we can do, together, to ensure that the world is safer tomorrow than it is today. If you aren't sure what you can do, then join ICMEC in what we are doing. And if you have a better idea for what we can do together, just invite us, and ICMEC will join you."

- Bob Cunningham, ICMEC President & CEO

### By the Numbers

### ONLINE CHILD EXPLOITATION AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL (CSAM):



1/3 of all internet users today are children and young people and more than 800 million children are actively using social media.



### 32 million

There were 32 million reports to the U.S. NCMEC of suspected online child sexual exploitation in 2022. These included 88 million CSAM images and videos.



# Every 2 minutes

Every 2 minutes a webpage assessed by the U.K.'s IWF showed a child being sexually abused. Of 375,230 reports of suspected online child sexual abuse, 255,588 reports were confirmed to be CSAM.



84%

Of 587,852 reports of suspected CSAM assessed by INHOPE members, 84% were of never-before-seen material depicting new and known child victims of sexual abuse. 9 in 10 victims depicted were ages 3 to 12 years old and 1% of victims were infants (0-2 years).

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**



The number of children identified as experiencing human trafficking has tripled in the last 15 years.



Children make up almost one-third of trafficked persons worldwide.



### **40% Displaced**

At the end of 2022, of the 108.4 million forcibly displaced people, an estimated 43.3 million (40%) were children under the age of 18. Traveling alone or with others, children and youth face an increased risk of sexual and physical violence, as well as exploitation and trafficking before, during, and after their migration journeys.



# **Program Updates**

# Powering the Global Search for Missing Children

We work to safeguard children around the world from going missing. We achieve this by offering resources to governments, law enforcement, NGOs, and families, focusing on both prevention strategies and appropriate steps to take in case a child does go missing.

Each day, in every corner of the globe, children go missing for various reasons – some abducted, some abandoned, and others fleeing from unsafe homes. We strongly advocate for the visibility, search, and safe return of every missing child, as they are inherently vulnerable to potential abuse, exploitation, or even fatality. United in our commitment, we strive to be the voice for those who cannot advocate for themselves.



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

# Developing the first global estimate of missing children through research

In March 2022, ICMEC enlisted the expertise of The Program Evaluation & Research Lab (PEARL) at Boise State University to develop an unprecedented, research-based statistical model. This model aims to provide a numerical estimate of the global count of missing children, addressing the current absence of an evidencebased figure. Presently, no government, non-profit organization, or interest group possesses an empirically accurate estimate of the global missing children count. The lack of such an estimate is attributed to the inadequate data collection by countries and the varying definitions of "missing child" used worldwide. The challenge is further compounded by conflicting definitions within the same government and its agencies. Even when some data on missing children is gathered, it is often not readily accessible to the public. Currently in the Information Discovery phase, participants in this project are accumulating data spanning over two decades, encompassing economic, demographic, crime, health, and other potentially relevant information from more than 100 nations. Following an exhaustive effort to identify all available data sources, the subsequent phase involves scrutinizing and organizing the data, followed by the initiation of statistical testing and the construction of the estimation model by PEARL.

### **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 five continents. We strive for the continued expanding commitment of the global community to prevent and respond to children who are missing.



### The GMCNgine™

The GMCNgine™ is the largest global system for issuing alerts about missing children, facilitating the search for them beyond national boundaries. This cutting-edge technology enables users worldwide to collaborate on sharing leads and case details. It digitally disseminates information about missing children to the public, employs facial recognition to match their photos with data sourced from both clear and dark webs, and generates leads for investigators. Additionally, it produces geo-targeted alerts to help locate missing children.

### Since the platform was launched in 2019, the GMCNgine™ has:

Generated

### **BILLIONS**

of missing child alert media impressions



Led to the successful recovery of more than

### 4,000 CHILDREN

"The marketplace for missing child protection technology solutions is well underserviced with technology. The GMCNgine is filling a void in a marketplace with limited technology support options. The effectiveness of the platform has been continually demonstrated since early after launch and scaled quickly to the demand.

Relative to market choices, the GMCNgine provides an innovative option at low operational cost. The GMCNgine leverages modern and proven technologies, and best in class hyper-specialized tools to build end-to-end technology support for finding missing children."

Active missing child cases are entered into case/live, the GIMCN Global print of the Case of the Case

- Merakata 2022



# Disrupting the Mechanics of Child Sexual Exploitation

To proactively prevent future abuse, ICMEC concentrates on identifying and disrupting systems that facilitate sexual exploitation. Collaborating with leading technology and financial industry companies, we strive to create innovative global solutions safeguarding children from sexual abuse, exploitation, and the risk of going missing.

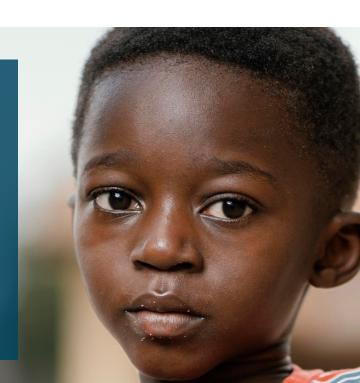
### **Financial Coalitions Against Child Sexual Exploitation**

ICMEC partners with financial industry entities, law enforcement, governments, and others to combat the online sale and dissemination of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation fosters a collaborative environment where ICMEC, its leadership, and members share diverse expertise to support the defense and safe recovery of children. The U.S. Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FCACSE), launched in 2006, disrupted offenders using traditional payment methods. In 2009, the Asia-Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (APFC) expanded these efforts to Asia, eliminating the use of credit cards for purchasing CSAM online. Our work now extends to assessing the use of emerging currencies, including cryptocurrencies and blockchain. We facilitate collaboration between Financial Coalition members and law enforcement, aiding in cases related to missing and abducted children in the United States, with ten companies participating in the Rapid Response program.

"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 Marinzel,

Vice President of Acquiring Fraud Investigations and Controls, Fiserv





### **The Philippines Legal Review Position Paper**

In collaboration with Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & Delos Angeles, ICMEC published The Philippines Legal Review Position Paper in October. This document aims to fortify the child protection legal framework, ensuring no child in the Philippines remains vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse. Recommendations address real-world challenges faced by professionals navigating the robust child protection legal framework, detailing impediments faced by various stakeholders. Policymakers in the Philippines Congress are encouraged to support the review, revision, or drafting of new legislation to address identified challenges and protect children.

### Specialized Police Units to Combat Online Child Sexual Exploitation in India

It has been highlighted by INTERPOL that, in conjunction with significant underreporting of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), many countries do not have specialized units dedicated to this crime type, with others lacking necessary legislation. In July, ICMEC CyberPeace Foundation announced a project to combat OCSE in India. In 2021, India reached 4.7 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation online, constituting an increase of 136% over 2019. The initiative will equip local law enforcement in four Indian states and one city with training and technology.

The project, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, aims to establish, equip, and train specialized police units to effectively investigate online sexual crimes, protect children, and contribute to the removal of child sexual abuse material from the internet and dark web.

ICMEC's 48-month project will provide specialized hardware, software, training, and technical assistance to investigate online sexual crimes against children and support victims.

Training for prosecutors and judges based on a victim-centric approach, including interview techniques to prevent revictimization, will be conducted in the five locations to ensure that cases of OCSE can be brought to trial and successfully reach conviction and sentencing.



Each dedicated police unit will also be assisted in equipping special child-friendly interview rooms. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Police Units of each Indian State or City and CyberPeace Foundation.

In order to safeguard children in India, ICMEC's goal with this project is to establish, equip, and train specialized police units that can carry out effective investigations and defend children from exploitation and abuse. We are incredibly proud to work alongside our partners in the removal of Child Sexual Abuse Material from the internet and dark web, preventing revictimization through appropriate interviewing of child victims, and bringing cases through the criminal justice system to conviction.

# Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation & Empowering Child Protection Professionals

# The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy

The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy is dedicated to championing modifications and improvements in laws, treaties, and systems aimed at safeguarding children globally. Our efforts involve extensive original research conducted through the institute, covering a broad spectrum of issues related to child protection and the state of child protection laws, policies, and best practices worldwide. We strive to transform the landscape of child protection on a global scale by crafting replicable legal tools, advocating for best practices, fostering international coalitions, and working in collaboration with partners to identify and assess threats to children. Through these initiatives, we seek to reshape the methodologies employed in safeguarding children across the globe.

### Protecting Children on the Move: Understanding and Addressing the Risks of Abuse, Exploitation, and Going Missing during Migration

In times of conflict and crisis, children face an elevated risk not only of violence and displacement but also of going missing, falling victim to trafficking, and experiencing sexual exploitation and abuse. In May, ICMEC unveiled Protecting Children on the Move: Understanding and Addressing the Risks of Abuse, Exploitation, and Going Missing during Migration along with 15 Recommendations to Address the Risks of Abuse, Exploitation, and Going Missing.

Bob Cunningham, CEO of ICMEC, emphasizes, "Children who are displaced are more susceptible to a myriad of dangers. Their lack of maturity and education, coupled with vulnerabilities tied to

Protecting Children on the Move:

15 Recommendations to Address the Risks of Abuse, Exploitation, and Going Missing

ICMEC developed the following recommendations to assist our partners including law enforcement, policymakers, industry stakeholders, educators, and healthcare professionals around the world in the protection of children in vulnerable communities.

International Centre\*

ICMEC emissions a world where children can grow up safe from explosation, above, or the risk of going missing. We believe every child deserves a sulf-childhood.

ongoing physical and psychological development, heighten the risk of exploitation and going missing before, during, and after their journeys."

The risk may persist even after reaching the destination, as abuse and violence can occur in refugee camps, detention centers, or private homes. Traffickers and exploiters may seize the opportunity presented by a child's or family's desperate need for work and housing. With adequate resources, partnerships, and tools in place, migrant children stand a better chance of leading healthier and safer lives.

The report underscores the vulnerabilities of children at all stages of migration, emphasizing children as a global priority for the attention and protection of governments and organizations worldwide. The provided recommendations offer guidance for addressing the challenges of ensuring children's safety during their journeys. These recommendations are valuable tools for partners, including law enforcement, policymakers, industry stakeholders, educators, and healthcare professionals dedicated to protecting children in vulnerable communities globally.

# ICMEC's Ground-Breaking Assessment of Child Protection in Colombia

In 2021, ICMEC embarked on the groundbreaking initiative of conducting the first Multisectoral Response and Capacity (MRC) Assessment in Guatemala. Building on this success, ICMEC extended its efforts to Colombia, presenting a pioneering analysis of the nation's national-level capacity to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse on 4 May 2022. This assessment involved 24 governmental and civil society institutions in Bogotá, marking the initiation of a strategic, intersectoral work plan. By addressing gaps identified in

the assessment, Colombia aims to comprehensively enhance its child protection measures.

The broad participation across various sectors ensures the development of a comprehensive National Response to combat sexual abuse and exploitation.



# Training partners on the frontlines to prevent and respond to cases of missing children, child sexual abuse, and exploitation

Empowering frontline partners with the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to cases involving missing children, child sexual abuse, and exploitation is at the core of our mission. We equip governments, law enforcement, policymakers, industry professionals, civil society, educators, healthcare practitioners, and others worldwide with essential tools, training, and technology. Our overarching goal is to create a safer world for all children.

ICMEC provides in-person training for law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and educators in international schools. In addition, we offer the free Agents of Change online learning series and the Intro to Safeguarding self-paced online modules for schools.

### Global Impact by the numbers.



### **120**+

ICMEC has equipped professionals from more than 120 countries with resources and training on child protection best practices.



### 80,000

We have provided training to 2,000 school professionals across 87 countries, impacting nearly 80,000 students across the world.



### 155,000+

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



### 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.



### 38

The number of member organizations committed to the U.S. Financial Coalition which seeks to disrupt the economics of commercial sexual exploitation.

### **Launch of Reporting Portal**

In December 2021, ICMEC collaborated with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to introduce a joint Reporting Portal, enabling individuals globally to report instances of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. Recognizing the urgency, with a child being sexually abused on a webpage every two to three minutes in 2020, reporting and addressing such material becomes crucial in preventing the revictimization of child victims each time their image is viewed or shared.



Reporting portals play a crucial role in engaging citizens in the fight against online CSAM by facilitating the reporting of illegal and harmful content. Presently, 79 countries lack access to a CSAM reporting portal or hotline. ICMEC and IWF are committed to bridging this gap, empowering every citizen to safely and anonymously report illegal content online. The online portal hosted on ICMEC's website allows concerned internet users without access to a national reporting mechanism to easily and anonymously report CSAM. Together, ICMEC and IWF envision a world where every country has dedicated CSAM reporting portals or hotlines tailored to their national needs, trusted by their citizens, and we believe that the portal is a significant step toward making the internet safe for children.



### **ICMEC Supporters**

Transforming from a celebrated artist to a real-life superhero for children, Jeff Koons, an ICMEC Board member since 2002, co-founded The Koons Family Institute on International Law & Policy. This initiative aims to combat global challenges of child abduction and exploitation, striving to protect children worldwide. As a father of eight and a victim of parental abduction, experiencing years of separation from his own son, Koons empathetically understands the profound impact of a child going missing, motivating his commitment to ICMEC's mission.

In a powerful demonstration of this commitment, Jeff Koons donated the proceeds from the auction of his BMW art car, THE 8 X JEFF KOONS, to ICMEC. This unique vehicle, debuting at Christie's auction house in April 2022, is a playful transformation in a superhero comic style, reflecting Koons' dream car. With only 99 produced and personally signed by the artist, the exclusive edition fetched an impressive \$475,000 through an exciting international bidding process.

Bob Cunningham, ICMEC's CEO, expressed gratitude for the generosity of the winning bidder, BMW, and especially Jeff Koons. Their support and partnership are pivotal in ICMEC's ongoing efforts to contribute to a safer world for children.

# 2022 Annual Gala for Child Protection

ICMEC's annual gala was held at Cipriani 42nd Street in NYC on 24 May 2022. The event brought together 243 dignitaries across every sector and from around the world to celebrate the work of ICMEC and join in an impactful evening full of inspiring stories of hope.

Several individuals were honored that evening. Caroline Humer received the Champion for Children Award for her long-time service to the organization. The Honorable U.S. Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon, a member of U.S. Congress for the past 26 years who has sponsored hundreds of bills supporting child protection, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Everyday Hero Award was presented to three law enforcement officers, including Detective Lawrence Okoth, a detective from Kenya who is attached to the Directorate of Criminal Investigation's (DCI) Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit, for his role in child protection in Manhattan, New York City; Director General of Police in Kerala India, Manoj Abraham, and Carlos Gamarra, Attaché, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Embassy — Guatemala. A.S. Roma of the European Football League was highlighted as a Partner in Protection for their ongoing support of raising awareness on International Missing Children's Day (May 25) and all year round. Finally, the Legacy Tribute was presented to Ret. Chair of ICMEC's Board of Directors, Dr. Franz B. Humer, for his unending support of ICMEC and its mission. Kate Snow was the emcee for the event.

The Gala generated substantial donations and pledges during the auction to support ICMEC programs.





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### **2022 Financials**

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022



SUPPORT & REVENUE	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL	
Contributions and grants	\$ 1,695,230	\$ 1,290,943	\$ 2,986,173	
Gala, net of expenses of \$174,156	845,457	-	845,457	
Program revenue	866,975	-	866,975	
Investment loss	-	-	-	
Net assets released from donor restrictions	1,989,482	(1,989,482)	-	
Total support and revenue	5,397,144	(698,539)	4,698,605	
EXPENSES				
Program Services	4,954,252	-	4,954,252	
Supporting Services		-		
Management and General Fundraising	1,698,122	-	1,698,122	
Fundraising	430,007	-	430,007	
Total supporting services	2,128,129	-	2,128,129	
Total expenses	7,082,381	-	7,082,381	
Change in net assets before other item	(1,685,237)	(698,539)	(2,383,776)	
OTHER ITEM				
Extinguishment of debt	-	-	-	
Change in net assets	(1,685,237)	(698,539)	(2,383,776)	
Net (deficit) assets at beginning of year	(250,017)	17,716,052	17,466,035	
NET (DEFICIT) ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	(1,935,254)	\$ 17,017,513	\$ 15,082,259	

### **2022 Financials**

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022



SUPPORTING SERVICES	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total Supporting Services	Total Expenses
Salaries and fringe benefits	\$3,404,808	\$798,237	\$404,080	\$1,202,317	\$4,607,125
Professional and contract fees	62,553	181,260	112,733	293.993	356,546
Travel	291,016	104,938	5,498	110,436	401,452
Supplies and deliveries	116,691	18,635	1,361	19,996	136,687
Occupancy and building costs	275,509	93,138	196,964	290,102	565,611
Outreach	-	-	-	-	-
Trainings/roundtables/conferences	228,752	-	96,523	96,523	325,275
Insurance	105,156	21,757	-	21,757	126,913
Depreciation and amortization	39,493	-	-	-	39,493
IT and website	408,597	26,078	2,512	28,590	437,187
Other	21,677	454,079	31,571	485,650	507,327
Subtotal	4,954,252	1,698,122	851,242	2,549,364	7,503,616
Special event expenses	-	-	(421,235)	(421,235)	(421,235)
TOTAL	\$4,954,252	\$ 1,698,122	\$ 430,007	\$ 2,128,129	\$ 7,082,381



Every missing child deserves to be seen, searched for, and brought to safety.





