

A Missing Child is a Vulnerable Child

We create partnerships and build solutions that make the world a safer place for children.

THE ISSUES

Every day, all around the world, children go missing. Children may run away, be victims of family or nonfamily abductions, or may be lost or missing for an unknown reason. And while it is true that many children who are reported missing come home on their own after a short time, it also is true that regardless of circumstances, the longer a child is missing the more vulnerable they become to such dangers as substance abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, prostitution, and even death.

THE FACTS

Missing Children Statistics: Annual Snapshot From Around the World

- Australia - 20,000 children missing each year
- Canada - 45,288 children reported missing each year
- Germany - 100,000 children missing each year
- India - 70,000 children missing each year
- Spain - 20,000 children missing each year
- UK - 60,742 children reported missing each year
- US - 460,000 children reported missing each year



Unfortunately, this issue is made more complex by the fact that most countries do not keep such statistics. There is no harmonized, international strategy – not even a common definition – for what is a “missing child.” Most countries maintain no national-level statistics such as those quoted above. Fewer than 30 have emergency child alert systems in place to galvanize agencies of government and the general public to help when a child goes missing.

Sadly, since the matter is not defined, is not quantified at the national or international level, and, in most countries, lacks a professionalized emergency response system, it is tragically easy to ignore. But one missing child is one too many. And we can do something about it.

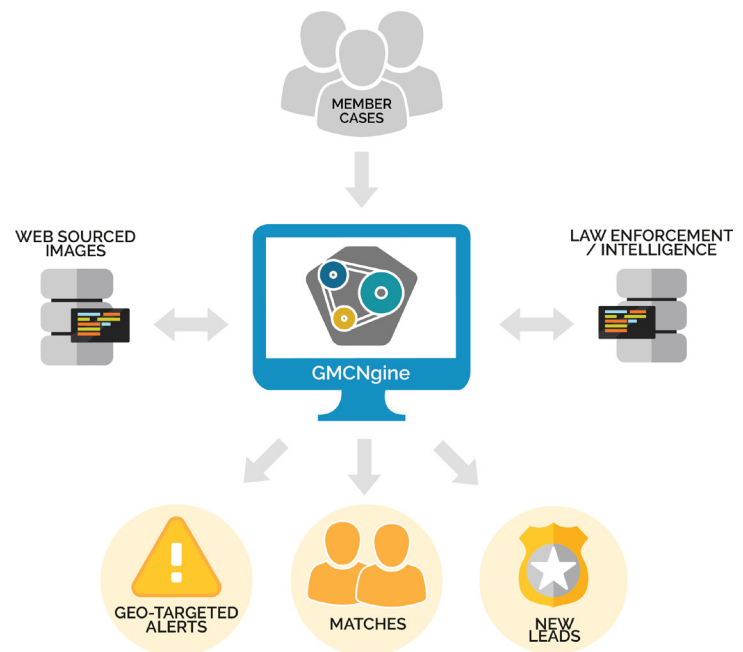


OUR RESPONSE

To build an innovative, intelligent image search and matching engine within ICMEC's Global Missing Children Network (GMCN) designed to integrate and search a vast array of global data sets looking for matches and other clues to help GMCN member organizations more quickly solve missing children cases. We have branded this capability as the "GMCNginer.™"

Today, ICMEC's GMCN has 29 member countries. The GMCN provides a platform that allows members access to a multi-lingual database featuring photographs of and information about missing children. Through this system, GMCN members can upload information and quickly create and distribute posters on social media to get the general public involved in helping to find missing children.

ICMEC is partnering with Amazon Web Services, the Federation for Internet Alerts, Motorola Solutions Foundation, Biometrica, Facebook, Web-IQ, and others to make enhancements to the GMCN technology to take the platform to the next level – moving from static to dynamic data, creating a system as tireless in its effort to help locate children as are the loved ones who search for missing children.



PROGRESS THIS YEAR

To achieve these goals, over the past year, with our partners, ICMEC has:

- Introduced enhanced API integration, allowing GMCN members an easier way to add their data to the GMCNginer;
- Moved to a cloud platform, streamlining the user experience, adding FAQs, help screens, and greater ability for GMCN members to communicate with one another;
- Created real-time poster generation with a unique URL, enabling GMCN members to much more quickly distribute images of missing children via email and social media;
- Added the Facebook AMBER Alert program for GMCN member countries interested in creating rapid emergency child alert systems;
- Introduced location based geo-targeting of alerts to participating countries, in partnership with the Federation for Internet Alerts, to provide missing children data on digital signage in public spaces;
- Enabled GMCNginer™ to use facial recognition software to match missing children information against both clean and dark web data sets;
- Integrated a search capability to match abductor with arrest data.



NEXT STEPS

- Introducing additional functionality such as age progression, and PhotoDNA;
- Partnering with big data companies to integrate image data sources from the clean and dark web, and to integrate multi-jurisdictional arrest and conviction data, sex offender registries, wanted lists, and other law enforcement data;
- Integrating further API functionality;
- Engaging in a worldwide campaign to increase GMCN membership.
- Understanding and analyzing GMCNginer™ data and trends