

ICMP Standing Capacity for Crisis Response (SCCR)

A Global Preparedness Mechanism for Missing Persons Crises

WHY IT MATTERS

The number of people reported missing due to conflict, disasters, irregular migration, and organized crime is rising worldwide. These situations increasingly cross borders, affecting nationals, migrants, and displaced populations, while creating complex legal, security, and societal challenges.

Addressing large-scale missing persons cases requires reliable systems, scientific capability, and coordinated action that can operate effectively across jurisdictions and over time.

The International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) has developed the Standing Capacity for Crisis Response (SCCR) to strengthen these efforts—bringing together established expertise, advanced technology, and international cooperation in a permanent preparedness framework.



— Processing of samples in ICMP's DNA Laboratories at its Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.

WHAT SCCR DELIVERS

SCCR provides access to a standing international capability that can be activated in large-scale missing persons situations across all crisis contexts. It brings together:



Rapid Response

Deployable forensic, data, and operational support to reinforce ongoing efforts in complex environments



Advanced Science

Expertise in human identification, DNA systems, and integrated data management, including large-scale processing and matching



Integrated Data Systems

Secure platforms that enable the collection, comparison, and analysis of information from multiple sources, supporting case resolution at scale



International Coordination

Structured cooperation across borders and institutions, building on established global partnerships



Preparedness

A permanent system that strengthens readiness, improves outcomes, and reduces risk as crises evolve

WHY IT MATTERS STRATEGICALLY

SCCR links scientific capability, operational delivery, and institutional cooperation in a single framework:

- **Strengthens Security and Stability**
Resolving missing persons cases reduces long-term societal and cross-border risks
- **Advances Rule of Law and Accountability**
Reliable identification and data systems support investigations, judicial processes, and the rights of families
- **Maximizes Efficiency**
A shared capability reduces duplication, lowers costs, and ensures access to highly specialized expertise
- **Builds Sustainable Capacity**
Training, technical support, and system integration reinforce existing national frameworks and long-term capability



— ICMP forensic teams support excavations in complex environments worldwide.



THE CASE FOR ACTION

Crises involving missing persons are increasing in scale and complexity. Delays in resolving cases carry lasting consequences for stability, accountability, and affected families.

SCCR offers a clear path forward: a permanent, ready-to-deploy international capability that strengthens preparedness and supports effective, coordinated action.

Investing in SCCR is an investment in security, accountability, and resilience—delivering measurable impact before, during, and after crisis.



WHY ICMP

ICMP brings three decades of operational experience across conflict, disaster, and migration contexts.

It combines scientific leadership with a unique multilateral mandate focused exclusively on missing persons, supported by established systems, partnerships, and field-tested methodologies.

This foundation enables immediate application at scale, strengthening ongoing efforts while extending reach and capability where required.

A PRACTICAL, SCALABLE MECHANISM

SCCR establishes a standing, deployable capacity within a flexible multilateral framework that ensures:



→ A diversified financing model—including recurrent contributions and a dedicated emergency fund—supports both sustained readiness and surge response when needed.

About ICMP

ICMP is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization with Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands. Its mandate is to secure the cooperation of governments and others in locating missing persons from conflict, human rights abuses, disasters and other causes and to assist them in doing so.

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