

STOCKTAKING REPORT

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Missing persons from the Armed Conflicts of the 1990s: A *Stocktaking* published by ICMP in December 2014 is the most comprehensive analysis yet written of a country's effort to account for missing persons after armed conflict.

Number of people estimated to have been killed in the conflicts that accompanied the break-up of Yugoslavia.

140,000



Just over

100,000

Number of people who lost their lives as a result of the 1992-95 conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Over

31,000

Estimated number of people who were unaccounted for when the fighting ended in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

23,500

Estimated number of these missing persons who had been accounted for as of June 2025.

7,500

Estimated number still missing



An estimated 75% accounted for

By 2000, around 8,000 of the missing had been identified using traditional methods (identity documents, articles of clothing, distinguishing features). Following extensive consultations, in 2001, ICMP launched an identification process based on the use of DNA. This process compares DNA profiles obtained voluntarily from relatives of the missing to post-mortem samples provided to ICMP through agreements with local authorities. The decision to harness this new technology resulted in an exponential rise in the number of identifications.



74,415

Number of reference samples collected

24,663

Number of missing persons whose relatives provided reference samples from which DNA could be typed

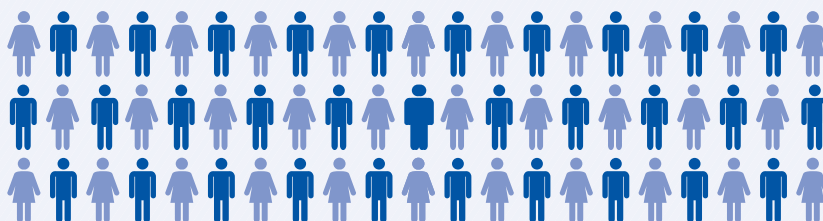
Number of reference samples collected This shows the total number of reference samples provided by family members to identify missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The number of reference samples needed for identification depends on how closely related the family members are to the missing person and on the DNA characteristics of the family. Sometimes a reference sample from a single parent or child is enough, but usually reference samples from two or more close relatives are needed. Samples from family members with closer kinship, such as parents, children and siblings of the missing person, are the most useful, but samples from more distant relatives may also be helpful.

54,646

Number of post-mortem samples provided by authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ICMP

15,716

The number of DNA matches of unique individuals.



According to a survey of citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted by ICMP, the search for the missing is not perceived to be biased with regard to ethnicity or nationality and is viewed by an overwhelming majority as an indispensable element in post-war recovery.

80%

of BiH citizens believe that resolving the fate of the missing contributes to reconciliation

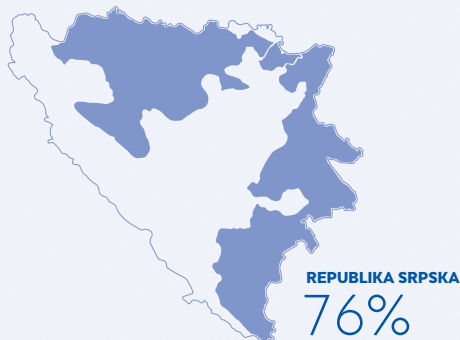
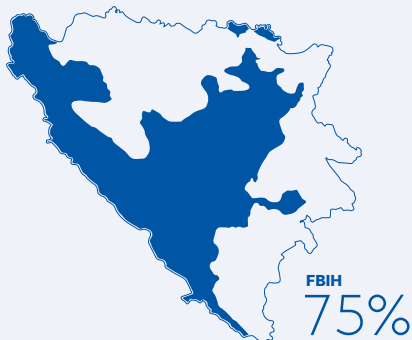
87%

of people believe that joint memorials and days of commemoration should be dedicated to all missing persons

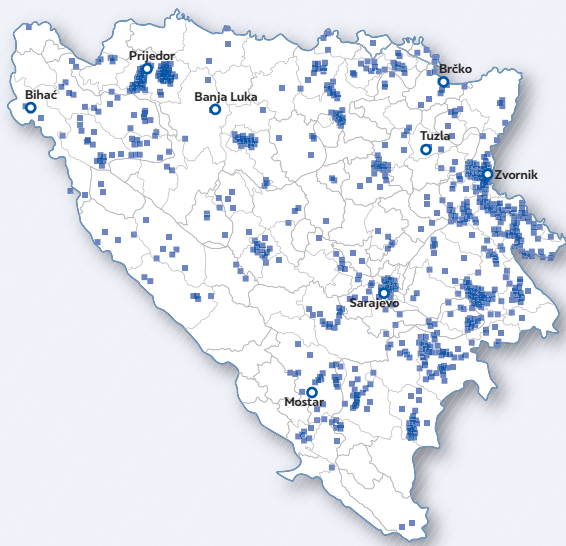
96%

of people believe the search for the missing should not be conducted on the basis of nationality or religion

Analysis of the Central Records of Missing Persons shows no significant difference in the identification rate of individuals reported by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (75 percent) and the Republika Srpska (76 percent). In other words, the average rate of identification is the same no matter where in Bosnia and Herzegovina a person was reported missing.



Map of fields from which human remains have been recovered since 1996



ICMP has supported hundreds of site investigations and the resolution of many thousands of cases. Assistance in developing the planning, management and undertaking of excavations, documentation of sites, collection of evidence and analysis of data is critical to the process of justice. The Archaeology and Anthropology Assistance Program supports the investigation of crime scenes and mass and other clandestine graves and provides assistance in the search for, recovery, documentation, examination and analysis of mortal remains.

The International Commission on Missing Persons has launched a new on-line application called the "Site Locator". The application allows for the reporting of mass graves and other sites where the mortal remains of missing and disappeared persons may be located. Information can be provided anonymously, or may include contact details.

	Reported missing	Identified
● Srebrenica 1995	7757	7023
● Lower Podrinje	4080	2657
● Posavina	1461	1032
● Krajina	6582	5198
● Upper Podrinje	3726	2201
● Ozren 1995	342	246
○ Northeast Bosnia	551	385
● Central Bosnia	2252	1603
● Sarajevo	2260	1707
○ Herzegovina	1679	1272
● Western Bosnia	631	531
● Unknown	63	57

