

Bosnian Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 3,000,000

Bosnia: 2,000,000

Serbia: 300,000

Germany: 250,000

Turkey: 100,000

Religion: Islam

Believers: 0.028% (MBB)

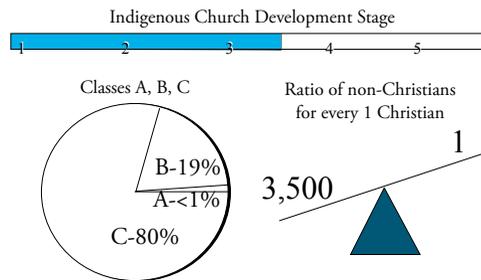
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 3

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 3



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: Bosnian Muslims are a subgroup of the Serbo-Croatian cluster. They are the descendants of Slavic settlers which intermarried with the Illyrian tribes inhabiting the region. Recent hostilities between Serbs, Croats and Bosnians have led to sharper ethnic distinctions between the three groups.

Lifestyle: The Bosnian economy is divided in half between its agricultural and industrial sectors. About 60% of the nation lives in rural areas where the principal grain crops are wheat, barley and corn. Soybeans, potatoes and tobacco are also grown. In hilly areas, the land is used for grazing, mostly sheep and some cattle. Important industries are textiles, armaments, chemicals and paper-making. The country is still recovering from a 3 year civil war (1992-1995) in which 75% of its buildings were destroyed or damaged.

Customs: Bosnians are famous for their passionate folk ballads called *sevdalica*.

dablina. They are usually sung by a male soloist accompanied by a small band that usually includes a violin, guitar, flute, bass, and snare drum. The themes are about fate (submission to God's will) and love (melancholy romance).

Religion: Bosnians embraced Sunni Islam over a period of 100 years following the Ottoman Empire conquest of their territory in the 15th century. Today, doctrine and practice closely follow the Turkish pattern. Structurally, Christianity was very weak in Bosnia, with few churches and priests. The region was in a tug-of-war between the Serbs, who were Orthodox, and the Croats, who were Catholic, with neither side wanting the other to gain the allegiance of the Bosnians. It is believed that many of the first Muslim converts were members of a persecuted Christian sect that regarded the Ottomans as liberators.

Christian Outreach: Following the civil war, the door opened for many

Christian organizations to bring relief, and as a result hundreds came to know Jesus Christ. The first fellowships of Bosnian Muslim background believers (20+) have finally been established, after centuries of neglect.

How to Pray:

☞ The slaughter of many thousands of Bosnian Muslims by Serbian "Christians" has been a major setback for the gospel. Pray for sensitive witness with Christ's love to heal the brokenhearted and reconcile the divided.

☞ Pray for stability and openness in Bosnia that the gospel may spread rapidly and that missionaries may continue to work productively until the indigenous Church is well established.

☞ Several mission agencies are working together to mass-distribute the Bible among Bosnian Muslims. Pray that it might be well received in every town and village, and for protection from radical groups that may seek to prevent or disrupt its distribution.

☞ There are still many refugee communities of Bosnian Muslims in surrounding countries that are unreached. Pray that local believers may catch a vision for bringing them the gospel.

Every year 27,000 Bosnian Muslims die without Christ.