

# PRIORITY 100: PEOPLE

## BOSNIANS



### ABOUT THE PEOPLE

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*There are around 2 million Bosnians living in the Balkans today. The largest number of Bosnians outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina is found in the Sandzak region of Montenegro and Serbia.*

*Most Bosnians are Sunni Muslim, although historically Sufism has also played a significant role among them.*

*For many Bosnians, Islamic identity has more to do with cultural roots than with religious beliefs. Bosnians are no different than other Muslims in that they view Islam from the foundation that is their culture.*



SARAJEVO

MOSTAR

KEY CITIES

TRAVNIK

BUGOJNO

KEY CITIES

NOVI PAZAR

FOJNICA

## WHY PRIORITIZE BOSNIANS?

THE TRAGEDY OF THE BOSNIANS HAS BEEN VIVIDLY PORTRAYED TO THE WORLD BY THE MEDIA. THE DESTRUCTION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES, EXPULSION OF THEIR INHABITANTS, SYSTEMATIC LOOTING, AND RAPING OF WOMEN HAVE LEFT DEEP SCARS AND AN ABIDING HATRED BETWEEN COMMUNITIES THAT ONCE LIVED TOGETHER AND EVEN INTERMARRIED, AND HATRED BETWEEN THE MUSLIM BOSNIANS AND THEIR "CHRISTIAN" SERBIAN NEIGHBORS WHO TREATED THEM THIS WAY.

TODAY MANY OF THE BOSNIANS ARE WAR REFUGEES IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES. THEY STILL SPEAK BOSNIAN AND MAINTAIN A CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND VISIT THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY REGULARLY.

THE BOSNIANS ARE ONE OF EUROPE'S LEAST EVANGELIZED PEOPLES. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MISSIONS AGENCIES CURRENTLY WORKING AMONG THE BOSNIANS OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, VERY FEW HAVE ACCEPTED CHRIST. AS OF 2023 WE KNOW OF ABOUT 75 BOSNIAN MBBS. PRAYER IS THE KEY TO REACHING THEM WITH THE GOSPEL.

## OPPORTUNITIES?

THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN A COUPLE OF PRAYER HOUSES THAT ARE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ECONOMIC RELIEF AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK INTO A STRUGGLING ECONOMY, THERE ARE DMM PRACTITIONERS, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, FARMING AND MEDICAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND A NEED FOR BOLD EVANGELISTS ABOUND AS WELL.

MOST OF THE TIME BOSNIA IS OPEN TO WORKERS COMING IN THAT CONTRIBUTE AND HELP SERVE THE GREATER SOCIETY. WITH THIS MORE OPEN ACCESS WE HAVE HOPED FOR MORE MOVEMENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THE BLOOD FEUDS AND HATRED BETWEEN THE MUSLIM BOSNIANS AND THEIR "CHRISTIAN" NEIGHBORS MAKES GATHERING A GROUP OF PEOPLE TOGETHER, SO FAR, NOT POSSIBLE. THE OPPORTUNITY, SKILLS, AND DIVINE GIFTINGS TO BRING RECONCILIATION AND PEACE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, TOWNS, AND WHOLE SOCIETIES IS A HUGE NEED AMONGST BOSNIANS.

## HOW TO PRAY?

- ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SOFTEN THE HEARTS OF BOSNIANS TOWARD CHRISTIANS SO THAT THEY WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO THE GOSPEL. THAT GOD WOULD BRING PEACE TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST FRIENDS AND FAMILY DUE TO WRONG AND UNJUST ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND WAR BY SO CALLED CHRISTIANS.
- PRAY THAT GOD WILL MEET THE PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF BOSNIANS.
- ASK GOD TO RAISE PRAYER TEAMS WHO WILL BEGIN BREAKING UP THE SOIL THROUGH WORSHIP AND INTERCESSION.