

Bosnia – Overview

Bosnia was fielded from October 2, 2007 to October 10, 2007. The achieved sample size was N = 572 face-to-face interviews. The topics included women’s rights, healthcare, and education. The sampling methodology was a multistage random sample of female Muslim adults age 18+ from urban and rural locations.

Sample and Research Design

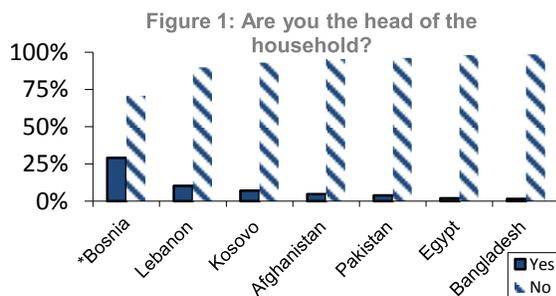
The sample is stratified by region and by urbanity within each region’s selected cantons. Clusters are then distributed within each stratum. A random walk method with a fixed sampling interval was performed from a starting point. Interviews use the next birthday method to select individual respondents within an eligible household.

Women’s Rights

Over half of Muslim women interviewed in Bosnia (68%) believe that their rights under the CEDAW are ‘very well protected’ or ‘somewhat protected’ within Islamic law in their country.

What Women Want

While Muslim women in Bosnia demonstrate a large degree of freedom in exercising their rights in both the privacy of their home as well as in the public sphere, Bosnian women still struggle against a high level of unemployment. Just over one-third (35%) of women report having a job outside of the home where they are paid by someone else, somewhat concerning when considering the 30% of women who say they are the head of their household.



For more information on how to participate or access the data please contact WIMC@d3systems.com

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When women were asked if they could change anything in their life within the framework of the CEDAW in order to become happier, 37% replied more money or a greater income. The only response which received more mentions was better health, with 39% of respondents selecting this option. This is just one of many examples, which serves to demonstrate the difficulty Bosnian women face in trying to make ends meet in the face of the difficult post-war recovery Bosnia continues to endure.

Healthcare

A majority of respondents (92%) do not believe they have ever been denied health care they needed because they are a woman.

Education

Women in Bosnia show high levels of education, compared to other Muslim countries. Nearly 90% of women have 9 years or more of education.

Table 1: Education of Bosnian Women, 2007

	<i>Bosnian Women</i>
No formal education	>1%
1-4 years	2%
5-8 years	20%
9-12 years	61%
13+ years	17%

Outlook

The majority of Muslim women in Bosnia demonstrate a large degree of freedom in exercising their public and private rights with regard to decision-making at home, access to health care, voting rights and employment compensation. If these demonstrations of women exercising their rights in the domestic and social spheres are any indication, it appears Bosnian women have been able to turn tragic events from their country’s war torn past into momentum for empowerment and reform.

