Bosnia and Herzegovina is still recovering from the 1992-95 war of independence from the Yugoslav Federation which destroyed lives and devastated its infrastructure and economy. Roughly two million people were displaced and 100,000 killed. The psychological impact of the ethnic cleansing and atrocities continue to impact children. The three main ethnic groups are Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Croats and Serbs. The Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian languages are virtually identical; the distinction being a matter of identity politics as identity is inexorably tied to ethnic and religious identity.

RELIGION
The majority of Bosnians are Muslim (40%). Bosnian Serbs are Eastern Orthodox (31%) and Croats are Roman Catholic (15%). In addition 4% is Protestant and another 10% follow other religions. While a majority of the population is not practicing or observant, religion is a key aspect of national identity.

ETNICITY/NATIONAL IDENTITY
Prior to the civil war, the three dominant groups identified predominantly as Bosnian. Today they distinguish themselves from one another. Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) represent the majority (48%) and have a culture influenced by centuries of Ottoman Turkish rule. Bosniaks tend to identify themselves in opposition to Serbia which also dominated the region for years. Bosnian Serbs (37%) are culturally linked to their neighbors in Serbia to the south. They identify less as Bosnians and primarily as Serbs. Croats (14%) distinguish themselves from both Serbs and Bosnians. While in 1991, before the civil war, 40% of marriages registered were ethnically mixed, today the regions are much more homogenous and mixed marriages are extremely rare. Family names are often an indication of ethnicity and most end in "ić," (ich) or "the little one."

FAMILY, RELATIONSHIPS & CUSTOMS
Each of Bosnia’s three distinct populations have their own customs and traditions and observe individual religious holidays. While on the state level the Gregorian calendar is observed, Bosniaks follow the Islamic calendar and observe Ramadan followed by Bajram. Serbs follow the Orthodox Julian calendar with Christmas on January 7. And Croats observe Catholic holidays. The war had a considerable impact on family life with fewer extended families cohabitating and many families separated or with members killed. This has resulted in many women becoming heads of households. Each of the respective groups tends to settle with their respective community in the US and these communities provide considerable support for their members.
**Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian (often referred to as BCS) are virtually identical yet maintain some regional differences; the distinction being a matter of identity politics. Croatian and Bosnian use the Latin script, whereas Serbian use the Cyrillic alphabet. BCS is an Indo-European language. Like Russian and Latin, it is highly inflected—nouns are altered to indicate relation in a sentence. Nouns also have gender and cases, and the past tense is conjugated by gender and person while other tenses are conjugated only by person. Articles and prepositions are rarely used. Turkish and Albanian are spoken by a small minority.**

**Hi/Bye………………Zdravo (ZDRAH-vow)**

**Good day……….Dobar dan (DOH-bahr dahn)**

**Good morning …………...Dobro jutro**

**Yes …………………....Da (dah)**

**No ……………………….Ne (neh)**

**Please……………………..Molim (MOH-leem)**

**Thank you ……………….Hvala (HVAH-lah)**

**You’re welcome .. Nema na čemu (NEH-nah CHEH-moo)**

**How are you? ……..Kako ste (KAH-koh steh)?**

**I do not understand ….. Ne razumijem (neh rah-ZOO-myehm)**

**Do you understand? …... Razumijete li?/Da li razumijete?**

**What is your name?…….. Kako se zovete? (KAH-koh seh zoh-VEH-teh)**

**My name is ……Zovem se. (ZOH-vehm she)**

**Where are you from? .... Odakle ste?**