

IMAGES Country Study Documentation

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2012

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KEY OBJECTIVES

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) is a multi-country study on men's and women's realities, attitudes and behaviors around gender equality, including childhood experiences of violence, gender relations, partner relations and relationship satisfaction, gender-based violence and sexual behavior. This particular research in Bosnia and Herzegovina covers key topics in gender equality, including intimate relationships, family dynamics, and, key health and social vulnerabilities for men. Specific topics in the research include: employment, education, childhood experiences, relations at home (in current household), parenting and men's relationship with his children, attitudes toward women and masculinity (using the GEM scale and other measures), health and quality of life, services and sexual and reproductive behavior, transmitted infections, sexual behavior, ethnic relations, and war experiences.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

There is a growing understanding of how gender influences men's and women's expectations, attitudes, and behaviors and how gender is a growing determinant of social and economic wellbeing. Sustainable Development Goal #5 includes targets around the elimination of violence and harmful practices, recognizing and valuing unpaid care, and ensuring women's participation in leadership and public life. IMAGES results from 6 countries had inspired similar research in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are several reasons that make sense to implement IMAGES research in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). One is that B&H is a traditional society in which patriarchal norms still dominate. In addition, there are other factors that still complicate gender relations. The BiH war of 1992-1995 left behind a number of consequences such as broken families, a large number of wounded and displaced, war traumas, destroyed cities, poverty, etc. Many lingering effects were still present at the time of this research in 2011. For example, Bosnia still had an unemployment rate of about 30 percent.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

Such an environment contributed to hindering man's from fully realizing their traditional and expected role. The reaction of men in this situation can often be impractical and rash, accompanied by violence and risky behaviors.

The aim of the research on men and gender equality (IMAGES) in Bosnia and Herzegovina was to collect information on different aspects of men's life and their attitudes and behaviors with respect to gender equality. This research used a questionnaire and was also conducted on a sample of women to see how women experience and view men. Therefore, women's attitudes and opinions of men and gender equality were also investigated. However, this particular research was over representative of men's experiences.

The research was conducted on a representative and random sample in BiH. The sample included 1684 men and 687 women aged 18-59, from 56 municipalities.

2 DATA COLLECTION

This study collected data through quantitative surveys (i.e. a questionnaire) and was also conducted on a sample of women to investigate women's attitudes and opinions of men and gender equality. The final questionnaire was adapted based on the local context from the questionnaire on gender equality and quality of life created by the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Children and Equality, the international study on violence against women conducted by the World Health Organization and the Gender Equitable Men Scale (GEM scale), developed by the Population Council and the Promundo Institute.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The field research was conducted in the period of June to August 2011. Prior to this, pilot research was done based on which the questionnaires were additionally adjusted to the language of respondents. Prior to filling out the questionnaire, all respondents were informed of the objectives and contents of the research and respondents were asked to provide their written consent and agreement for participation. Respondents were also informed that they could refuse to answer any questions or leave at any moment in time, that the poll is voluntary and on an anonymized basis, and that the obtained results would only be used for scientific and investigative purposes. The respondents were also handed out leaflets with the addresses of institutions dealing with support and assistance regarding the problems and themes explored in the survey. The respondents filled out the questionnaire alone using pencil and paper. Two types of questionnaires were applied: one for men and one for women. Both questionnaires were further subdivided depending on the experiences of respondents.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Male questionnaire

The male questionnaire consisted of about 300 questions and took about 90 minutes to complete. It covered various aspects of men's experiences such as childhood, adolescence, schooling, parenthood and family life, employment, relationships with partners in the same household, gender equality, sexuality and reproductive health, general health and quality of life, violence against women, use of sexual services, and risky behaviors (alcohol and/or drug abuse, possession of firearms, imprisonment and involvement in fights or theft). The questionnaire was further subdivided by men's experience, thus some parts of the questionnaire were dedicated only to, for example, unemployed men, men who lived with their wives, men who were parents and men who had had sexual experiences, etc.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Female questionnaire

The female questionnaire included the identical sections items as the male questionnaire on the themes: gender equality, relationships with partners in the same household, parenthood, general health and quality of life, sexuality and exposure to violence by men. This questionnaire was less extensive than the male one and therefore the time for filling it was shorter to about 40 minutes.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The research was conducted on a representative and random sample in BiH. A multi-phase sampling was used in the choice of sample. It was taken into account that there were three administrative units (two entities – Federation BiH and Republic of Srpska and Brcko District), three constitutive nations (Bosniaks- Muslims, Serbs- Orthodox Christians and Croats- Catholics.) as well as urban and rural areas. Having these principles in mind, the municipalities and local communities in which the research took place were selected by the random sample method. Then, starting points of the research were determined in each settlement as well as clear rules of pollsters' movement and random choice of households. If there were two potential respondents in one household, the respondent whose birthday was closer was chosen.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The research was carried on in BiH among 1864 males and 687 females aged 18-59. The average age of men and women was 34 and 36.5 years respectively. There were more examinees in Federation of BiH (58.1% of men and 59.1% of women) compared to Republic of Srpska (39.3% of men and 38.3% of women) and Brcko District (2.7% of men and 2.6% of women). Approximately 77% of the examinees belonged to urban areas while 23% to rural areas. Most respondents identified themselves as Muslims (46% of men and 44.1% of women) as compared to Orthodox (41% of both men and women) and Catholics (12.3% of men and 14.3% of women) while 1% were from other religions. The research was conducted in 56 municipalities and cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3 SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Characteristics of the sample by gender, age, religion, territory and residence

Data sample details	Men		Women	
	N	%	N	%
Age				
till 24	376	22,5	160	23,3
25-34	578	34,5	190	27,7
35-49	393	23,5	203	29,5
50-63	327	19,5	134	19,5
Religion				
Islam	685	46,0	86	44,1
Orthodox Christians	606	40,7	247	41,0
Chatolic Christians	183	12,3	266	14,3
Other	15	1,0	4	,7
Territory				
Federation B&H	978	58,1	406	59,1
Republic of Srpska	661	39,3	263	38,3
Brcko district	45	2,7	18	2,6
Type of place of leaving				
Village	381	22,6	161	23,4
Smaller city (less than 30 000 of people)	585	34,7	235	34,2
Bigger city (30 000 and more)	718	42,6	291	42,4

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Characteristics of respondents by gender, marital status, education and employment status, and income

Characteristics	Men		Women	
	N	%	N	%
Number of children				
No children	1006	59,7	339	49,3
1-2	569	33,8	283	41,2
3-5	100	5,9	62	9,0
6 or more	9	,5	3	0,3
Marital status				
Married	740	43,9	298	43,4
Unmarried	944	56,1	389	56,6
Education				
No formal education	14	,8	18	2,6
Finished primary school	87	5,2	50	7,3
Finished high school	1088	64,6	413	60,2
More than high school	495	29,5	206	30,0
Status				
Still in school	328	19,5	144	21,0
Employed	872	51,8	304	44,3
Unemployed	310	18,4	183	26,6
Pension	171	10,2	49	7,1
Other	3	,2	7	1,0
Monthly income (1USD=1,5 BAM)				
Less than 500 BAM	439	26,1	259	37,7
500 - 1 000 BAM	546	32,4	226	32,9
1 000 do 1500 BAM	242	14,4	104	15,1
1500-2000 BAM	66	3,9	28	4,1
More than 2000 BAM	35	2,1	12	1,7
No answer	356	21,1	58	8,4

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RESPONSE RATE

No additional information available in this section.

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WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

No additional information available in this section.

6 MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

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QUALITY CONTROL

No additional information available in this section.

8

INTERVIEWER TRAINING

No additional information available in this section.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

This research is part of the project implemented by “Perpetuum mobile – Center for Youth and Community Development” and “CARE International North-West Balkan”. Both of these organizations have conducted several important pieces of research on gender norms and relations mostly related to life, needs and problems of both young and adult men. During the research implementation, professionals from the Promundo Institute and ICRW – The International Center for Research on Women gave their support. Field research was coordinated by marketing and research agency "Partner".

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

No additional information available in this section.

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NOTES ON STUDY

Project Challenges

Male target: A large proportion of male respondents protested and filled the questionnaire reluctantly, prolonging the field research. Most complaints referred to the length of the questionnaire and the intimacy of questions. The most adverse reactions to questions were regarding topics such as violence, sexual orientation, number of sexual partners, and paying for sexual services. Complaints included comments such as “it is not polite to ask such questions.” These complaints may pose a restraint on the results of the survey and should be taken into account. For example, there is a risk that participants responded in what they perceived as socially desirable ways, particularly around violence and sexuality.



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Men and Gender
Equality Survey