Community Disaster Risk Reduction Fund

Community Engagement Survey

Results and Outputs

British Virgin Islands (BVI)

(East End Tortola, Sea Cows Bay (Tortola) and Jost Van Dyke)

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Methodology

The CDRRF Community Engagement Survey (CES) was conducted in collaboration with the Department for Disaster Management (DDM) and Social Development Department in the British Virgin Islands. This research was executed across the three project beneficiary communities, namely Jost Van Dyke, Sea Cows Bay and East End/Long Look over the period August 27 - September 3, 2018 as a part of the DDM’s SMART Communities Project funded by the CDRRF. The CES as a precursor to the design and implementation of engagement strategies to secure community-wide participation and involvement project activities. Data were collected in the three target communities by a team of 22 community-based data collectors using a convenience sampling method. The questionnaires were administered to 225 community members and data collectors sought to maintain an even spread across sex and age groups.
Overview

- BVI is a part of the Virgin Islands archipelago, and comprises four main islands, namely, Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, along with over 50 other smaller islands and cays of which 15 are inhabited.

- Tortola is the largest island which is 11.8 miles long and 3 miles wide and mountainous. The coastline is indented with numerous bays and the watercourses or ‘ghuts’ which are normally dry, only flowing during heavy rainfall.

- Flooding is common along the shoreline, in shallow depressions, and salt ponds. Jost Van Dyke which is 4.2 miles long and 0.75 miles wide is the smallest of the major inhabited islands. The four islands have a total population of 28,054, of whom approximately 23,098 live on Tortola and 298 on Jost Van Dyke. The major population centres are located in the coastal areas, with commercial and industrial activities being the predominant land use.

- The coastal communities have a high vulnerability to flooding. Between 1995 and 2012, BVI was affected by 17 flood events which had a cumulative estimated cost of USD80.45 million (mn) and the impacts included damage to homes and businesses, landslides, high sedimentation levels and contamination of coastal waters by pesticides, fuel, and untreated sewage, and damage to critical infrastructure.

- In connection with the environment, the key environmental issues currently facing BVI can be summarised as follows: (a) waste management – need to improve the waste management systems; (b) energy – high dependence on oil and the limited use of renewable energy; (c) water - limited natural freshwater resources, except for a few seasonal streams and springs on Tortola; (d) heavy reliance on freshwater produced by desalination plants; and (e) public education – need to increase education and awareness of several environment topics and issues including CC, DRR, tsunamis, and renewable energy (RE).
Socio-demographic profile
Socio-demographic profile

Disability/Possible Disadvantage

Significant differences of the total numbers of reported disabilities were found based on the district (p=0.029). The most significant differences were between East End Tortola and Jost Van Dyke (p=0.024). Gender differences in reported possible disadvantage were not statistically significant (p=0.8).

Age

Fairly equal age distribution with each age category ranging between 14%-25%, the only exceptions were:

- East End Tortola and Jost Van Dyke
  - 36 years and older: >60%
  - 35 or younger: 47%
- Sea Cows Bay
  - 35 or younger: 47%

Occupation

Top 6 professions:

- **Unemployed**
  - East End Tortola (16%) and Jost Van Dyke (15%), Cows Bay Tortola (14%)
- **Students**
  - Sea Cows Bay Tortola (18%), East End (5%) and Jost Van Dyke (8%)
- **Teaching professionals, house builders, chefs and manager**

Native Language

All communities

- **English**: 88%
- **Spanish**: 13%
- **French**: 5%

Significant differences of the total numbers of reported disabilities were found based on the district (p=0.029). The most significant differences were between East End Tortola and Jost Van Dyke (p=0.024). Gender differences in reported possible disadvantage were not statistically significant (p=0.8).
Perceptions of community issues
Perceptions of community issues

Respondents' prioritization of community issues

- Road repairs
- Garbage disposal and sewage

Priority issues by age group

Differences among 2nd priority issue:

Road repairs
- Younger age groups: Armed forces (100%), Administrative professionals (50%), Social Work/Counselling Professionals (50%)
- Older age groups: Mechanical engineers (50%), Managers (40%)

Crime
- Graphical and Multimedia designers (100%), Social Work/Counselling Professionals (50%)

Improved facilities
- Public relations professionals (100%), Social & religious professionals (100%)

Priority issues by occupation

Top 5 issues:

- Water issues: 20%
- Sewage issues: 12%
- Need road repairs: 11%
- Garbage disposal: 9%
- Crime: 7%

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COMMUNITY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FUND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI)
Community participation and inclusion

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Community participation and inclusion

Role in community development

Respondents' perceptions of their own role in community development

Overview

- **72%** believed they had a role
- **9%** did not believe they had a role
- **19%** uncertain of their role

Gender differences

- **73%** Males believed they had a role
- **70%** Females believed they had a role

Age group differences

- **18-25 age group**
  - Lowest affirmations of their role in community development
  - **56%**
  - All other age groups on average scored 75%
- **76%** English speakers
- **50%** French speakers
- **41%** Spanish speakers

Language differences


Community participation and inclusion

Community-Based Organisation (CBO) engagement

Respondents’ rate of invitation to group activities

**Gender differences**

- Invited to participate in community-based activities: 51% Males, 43% Females

**Language differences**

- Spanish speakers: 26% reported the lowest proportion of community participation
- French speakers: 75% reported the highest relative proportion who confirmed community participation
- English speakers: 48%

**Occupational differences**

- Most involved (>60%): Social and Religious professionals, Social Work and Counselling Professionals, Musicians, Singers and Composers, Customs and Border Inspectors, Child care workers/Teacher aides, Police Officers, Inland Coastal waters fishery workers, Plumbers, Tailors/Dressmakers, Laundry machine operators (100%), Drivers (100-67%), Mechanical Engineers (75%), Chefs (75%), Skilled Agricultural Forestry and Fishery Workers (67%), Managers (67%)

- Least involved (<50%): Unemployed (47%), Teaching professionals (42%), Students (33%), Cleaners and helpers (25%), Engineering professionals (0%), Accountants (0%), Creative and Performing Artists (0%)
Community participation and inclusion

Community group membership

Respondents’ level of community group membership

Gender differences

- 15% Males
- 29% Females

Age group differences

18-25, 56 and over

- recorded the lowest relative proportions who indicated being members
- 15%

Group membership in all other age groups between these extremes averaged around 25%

Language differences

- 26% Spanish speakers highest levels of group membership
- 25% French speakers
- 20% English speakers lowest levels of group membership

Overview

- 80% non-membership
- 20% membership

18-25, 56 and over recorded the lowest relative proportions who indicated being members.

Group membership in all other age groups between these extremes averaged around 25%.

26% Spanish speakers have the highest levels of group membership.

25% of French speakers have the lowest levels of group membership.

20% of English speakers have the lowest levels of group membership.
Community group perceptions

Respondents' feelings about community groups

Reasons for non-membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No interest</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unawareness</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No time</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not invited</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never been invited</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most prevalent responses:

- **Helpful to community**
  - All communities (27%)

- **Groups need to be more active**
  - Jost Van Dyke (22.5%)
  - Sea Cows Bay Tortola (14%)
  - East End Tortola (10%)

- **Don't know any groups**
  - Sea Cows Bay Tortola (14%)
  - Jost Van Dyke (5%)
Community participation and inclusion

Community participation opportunities

Respondents’ opportunities to participate in community development activities

Gender differences

55% Males
39% Females

Age group differences

46-55 age group
only cohort that recorded having:
>50%

Jost Van Dyke
65%
East End Tortola
47%
Sea Cows Bay Tortola
44%

Language differences

49% English speakers
43% Spanish speakers
25% French speakers
Community participation and inclusion

Community activities

Highest ranked activities by overall participation rate

Overview

Sports

Religious activities

Disaster preparedness activities

Parties

Total: 41% Most popular activities
- 26-35 (78%), 56 and over (50%)
- East End Tortola: 92%
- Sea Cow Bay Tortola: 79%
- Jost Van Dyke: 11%

Total: 51% Least popular activities
- 36-45 (19%), 18-25 (30%)
- Sea Cows Bay Tortola: 75%
- East End Tortola: 67%
- Jost Van Dyke: 24%

Total: 27% participated in at least one community activity
- Jost Van Dyke: 70%
- Sea Cows Bay: 18%
- East End Tortola: 48%

Total: 80% Sports
- East End Tortola: 93%
- Sea Cows Bay: 82%
- Jost Van Dyke: 48%

Total: 72% Religious activities
- Males: 77%
- East End Tortola: 96%
- Teens (18-25): 64%
- Females: 10%
- East End Tortola: 10%
- Jost Van Dyke: 24%

Total: 55% Parents Teacher Association meetings
- Males: 47%
- 18-25, 56 and over: <50%
- Females: 64%
- Sea Cows Bay Tortola: 67%
- Jost Van Dyke: 24%
Engagement preferences

17  Community development involvement
18  Communication setting
19  Day and time to be informed
20  Frequency of communication
Engagement preferences

Community development involvement
Respondents’ desire for community development involvement

Gender differences
- Males: 69%
- Females: 79%

Age group differences
- Lowest levels of desire: 36-35, 56 and over
  - Males: 67%
  - Females: 82%
- Highest levels of desire: 46-55, 18-25
  - Males: 74%
  - Females: 59%

Language differences
- French speakers: 100%
- English speakers: 74%
- Spanish speakers: 59%

Desire for community involvement
- 73% desired to be involved in community activities
  - Jost Van Dyke: 87%
  - Sea Cows Bay Tortola: 70%
  - East End Tortola: 68%
Engagement preferences

Communication setting

Respondents’ preferred location for receiving communication

The top two preferred settings were:

- **Community Meetings**: 40%
- **Church**: 36%

Gender differences:

- **Males preferred Community meeting**: 52%
- **Females preferred Church**: 47%

Age group differences:

All age groups named community meetings and church as their top 2, except:

- **18-25 age group**: 2nd preferred setting: on the street
**Day and time to be informed**

Respondents’ preferred day and time to be informed about community activities

- **Most preferred days:**
  - Sunday: 34%
  - Saturday: 30%
  - Monday: 23%

**Gender differences**

- Males preferred mornings: 45%
- Females preferred afternoons: 43%

**Age group differences**

- All age groups below 56 years had a higher preference for mornings: 43%

**Preferred time**

- Mornings: 43%
- Afternoons: 40%
- Evenings: 17%

- East Tortola (48%)
- Jost Van Dyke (45%)
- Tortola (39%)

COMMUNITY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FUND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI)
Frequency of communication

Respondents’ preferred frequency of community updates

Top 3 preferred frequencies:
- Monthly: 43%
- Bi-weekly: 35%
- Daily: 13%

Although ‘monthly’ was the frequency preferred across all three districts:
- East End Tortola preferred Bi-weekly just as much as Monthly
- Jost Van Dyke preferred Bi-weekly just as much as Monthly

Community differences:
- Bi-weekly: 75%
- Monthly: 60%

Language differences:
- French speakers: 75%
- Spanish speakers: 60%
- English speakers: 41%
Communication Channels

22 Electronic device access
23 Internet service availability
24 Internet service quality
25 Preferred information sharing method
26 Emergency alert preference
27 Community development information preference
28 Trusted information sources
29 Feedback frequency
30 Preferred method of feedback from government agencies
Electronic device access

Respondents’ level of access to electronic devices

100% reported having access to at least one type of electronic device

99% Total

Cell phone

93% Sea Cows Bay Tortola
90% Jost Van Dyke
55% East End Tortola

76% Total

Laptop computer

18-25 (100%)

highest access

90% Jost Van Dyke

76% Total

18-25 (88%)

lowest access

26-35 (57%)
Internet service availability

Respondents’ level of access to internet service

98% indicated they had internet access

75% French Speakers

>95% All other language groups
Internet service quality

Respondents' most prevalent ratings of internet quality

Top 3 responses:
- 38% fair
- 26% poor
- 20% very poor

All communities

Highest relative proportion:
- East End Tortola poor
- Sea Cows Bay very poor
- Jost Van Dyke very good

18-25 scored the highest proportions of all age groups who rated as
very poor (37%)

French speakers were the most polarizing
- 67% very good
- 33% very poor
Preferred information sharing method

Respondents’ preferred methods of information sharing

Top 3 methods:
- Whatsapp: 34%
- SMS text: 15%
- Audio only: 17%
- Audiovisual: 13%

Although Whatsapp was the most preferred medium there were differences in the 2nd preference:
- Word of mouth: Jost Van Dyke
- SMS text: Sea Cows Bay Tortola
- Audio only: East End Tortola

Language differences:
- Cartoon messages
- Whatsapp, SMS text
- Whatsapp, audio only
  
  - French speakers
  - Spanish speakers
  - English speakers

Community differences:

Age group differences:
- 18-25: Whatsapp and SMS text
- 26-35: Whatsapp and Audio only
- 36-45: Whatsapp and Audio visual
- 46-55: Whatsapp and SMS text
- 56 and over: Whatsapp, Audio only and SMS text
**Emergency alert preference**

Respondents’ most preferred means for receiving emergency alerts

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**Top 3 means:**

- **42%** Word of mouth
- **28%** PA system
- **13%** Whatsapp

**Most preferred:**

- **Word of mouth**
  - East End Tortola and Sea Cows Bay Tortola
- **Whatsapp**
  - Jost Van Dyke
Community development information preference

Respondents’ most preferred means for receiving community development information

Top 3 means:

- **Text messages**: 41%
- **Radio**: 30%
- **Word of mouth**: 22%

**East End Tortola**
- Radio (33.1%),
- Text messages (32.4%) and
- Word of mouth (24.8%)

**Sea Cows Bay Tortola**
- Text messages (49.5%),
- Radio (29.4%) and
- Word of mouth (15.6%)

**Jost Van Dyke**
- Text messages (51.4%),
- Followed by
- Word of mouth (29.4%) and
- Radio (16.2%)
Communication channels

Trusted information sources

Respondents’ most trusted sources for reliable community development and disaster risk management information

Top 5 most trusted sources:

- Government agencies: 26%
- Neighbours: 25%
- Parents: 15%
- Pastors: 15%
- Community leaders: 13%

Neighbours and pastors: East End Tortola
Government agencies and neighbours: Sea Cows Bay Tortola
Government Agencies and community leaders: Jost Van Dyke
Feedback frequency

Frequency of feedback received on community development and disaster risk management issues from existing community-based organizations (CBOs) and NGOs in respondents' districts.

Overview

70% did not receive frequent feedback on community development/DRM issues.

Community differences

Reporting frequent feedback:

- 47% in Jost Van Dyke
- 27% in Sea Cows Bay Tortola
- 21% in East End Tortola
Preferred method of feedback from government agencies such as the Social Development Department, Fire Department, and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

Top preferred method:
- **Audio**: 17%
- **Text Messages**: 12%
- **Community Meetings**: 7%
- **Social Media**: 6%
- **Whatsapp**: 6%
- **Disaster Management Department**: 6%
- **Word of Mouth**: 5%

Communication channels:
- **Phone call**: Justice of the Peace, Security and Block Maker
- **Text message**: Nurse, Block Maker, Chef
- **Community meetings**: Unemployed, Shopkeeper, Housewife, Music Production, Vendor, Hairdresser, Horticulturalist, Driver, Administrative Assistant, Cashier, Salesman
- **Town Crier**: Vendor, Attendant, Labourer
- **Television**: Assistant Chef, Artist, Hairdresser, Security
- **Social media**: Artist
- **Flyer**: Gardener

Community differences:
- East End Tortola and Sea Cows Bay Tortola

Occupational differences:
- Jost Van Dyke

Overview:
- Audio and text messages
- Feedback from the Disaster Management Department and Community meetings
Hazard Management Practices

32 Community Emergency Shelters
33 Community disaster plan awareness
34 Presence of a family disaster plan
Hazard Management Practices

Community Emergency Shelters

Respondents’ awareness of community emergency shelters

- **Community differences**:
  - Sea Cows Bay Tortola: 74%
  - East End Tortola: 68%
  - Jost Van Dyke: 54%

- **Gender differences**:
  - Males: 74%
  - Females: 62%

- **Age differences**:
  - 18-25 highest awareness: 86%
  - 26-35 lowest awareness: 58%

- **Language differences**:
  - >70% English, French Speakers
  - 46% Spanish speakers

- **Existence of shelter**:
  - Certain: 84%
  - Uncertain: 15%
  - No shelter: 16%

**Overview**
Community disaster plan awareness

Respondents’ awareness of community disaster plan

- 68% aware of a plan
- 21% unaware
- 11% uncertainty

Highest level of awareness:
- Jost Van Dyke (15%)
- Sea Cows Bay

Highest level of uncertainty:
- East End Tortola and Sea Cows Bay (70%)
Presence of a family disaster plan

Respondents having a family disaster plan

**Overview**

**Language differences**

Had a family disaster plan:

- **French speakers**: 100%
- **English speakers**: 48%
- **Spanish speakers**: 29%

53% did not have a family disaster plan