

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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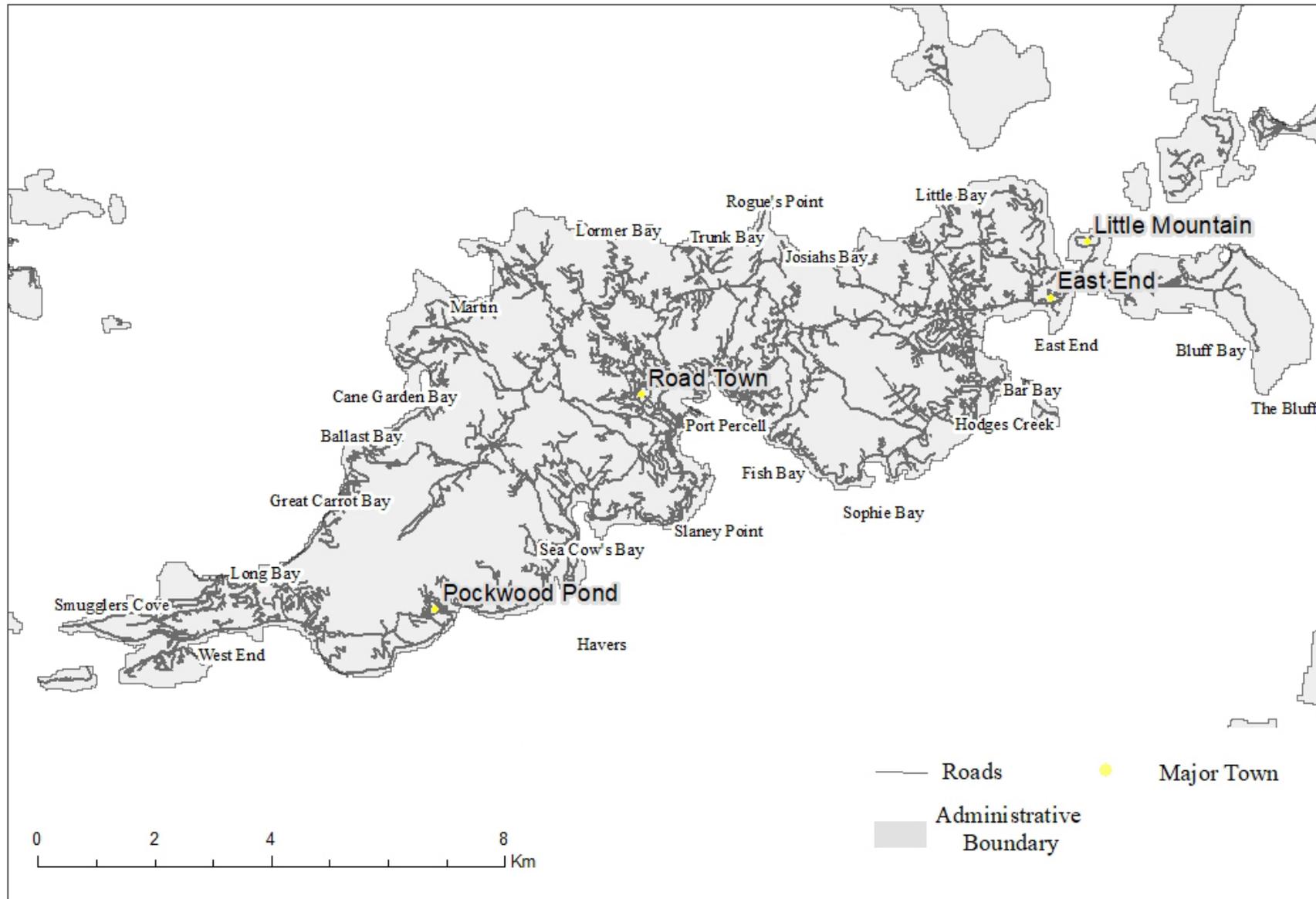
# Methodology

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

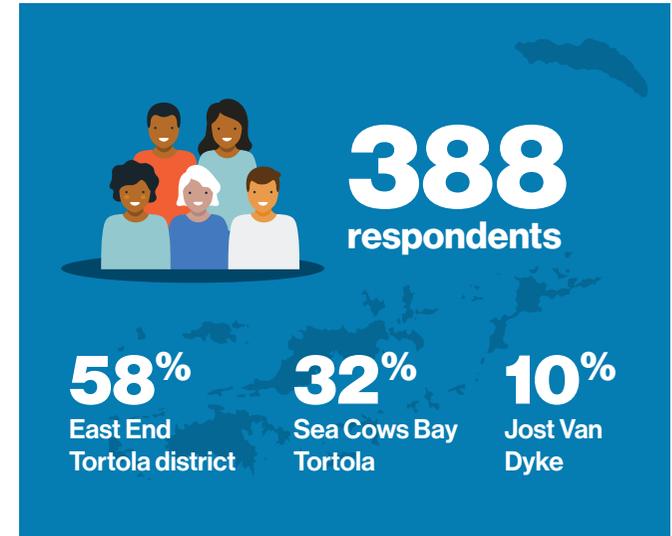
- BVI is a part of the Virgin Islands archipelago, and comprises four main islands, namely, Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, along with over 50 other smaller islands and cays of which 15 are inhabited.
- Tortola is the largest island which is 11.8 miles long and 3 miles wide and mountainous. 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;
  - (e) public education – need to increase education and awareness of several environment topics and issues including CC, DRR, tsunamis, and renewable energy (RE).

# Tortola, British Virgin Islands



# 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



## Occupation



## Native Language

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%**



Sea Cows Bay

**35 or younger** **47%**

## 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**

## All communities

**88%**  
**English**

Sea Cows Bay Tortola

**13%**  
Spanish

Jost van Dyke

**13%** Spanish **5%** French

East End Tortola

**7%**  
Spanish

# Perceptions of community issues

# Perceptions of community issues

Respondents' prioritization of community issues

Overview



Priority issues by age group



Priority issues by occupation

Differences among 2nd priority issue:



**Road repairs**  
Younger age groups



**Garbage disposal and sewage**  
Older age groups

## Road repairs

Armed forces (100%), Administrative professionals (50%), Social Work/Counselling Professionals (50%)

## Sewage issues

Mechanical engineers (50%), Managers (40%)

## Crime

Graphic and Multimedia designers (100%), Social Work/Counselling Professionals (50%)

## Garbage disposal and water issues

Accountants (50%)

## Improved facilities

Public relations professionals (100%), Social & religious professionals (100%)

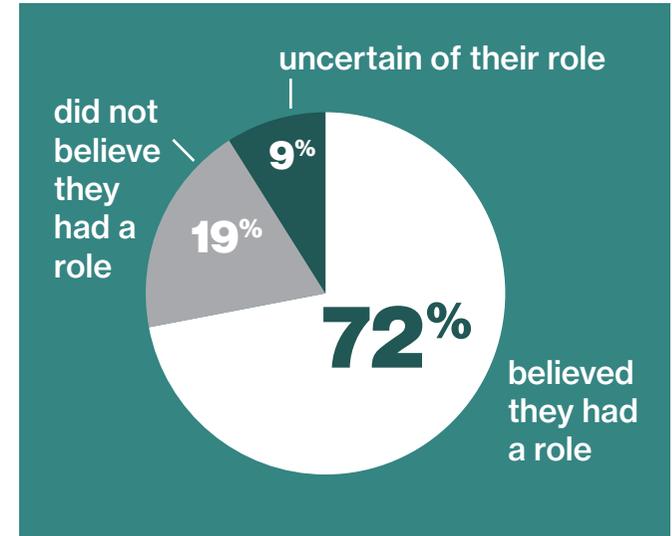
# Community participation and inclusion

- 10 Role in community development
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# Role in community development

Respondents' perceptions of their own role in community development

 Overview



 Gender differences

 Age group differences

 Language differences

Believed they had a role in community development:



**73%**  
Males



**70%**  
Females

**18-25 age group**

Lowest affirmations of their role in community development

**56%**

All other age groups on average scored 75%



Believed they had a role in community development:

**76%**  
English speakers

**50%**  
French speakers

**41%**  
Spanish speakers

# Community-Based Organisation (CBO) engagement

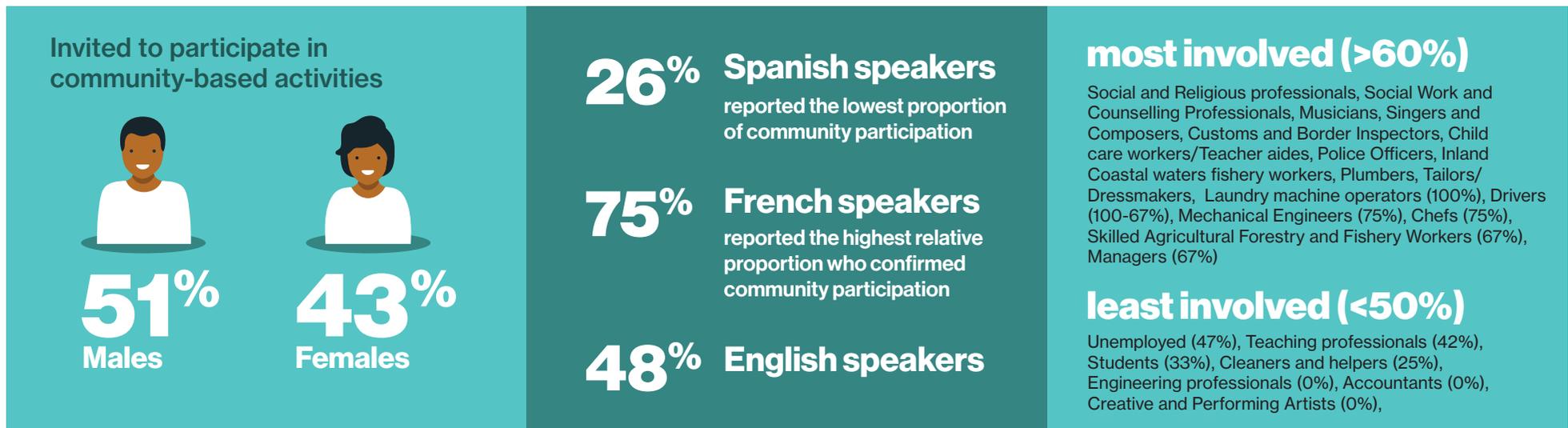
Respondents' rate of invitation to group activities



Gender differences

Language differences

Occupational differences



# Community group membership

Respondents' level of community group membership

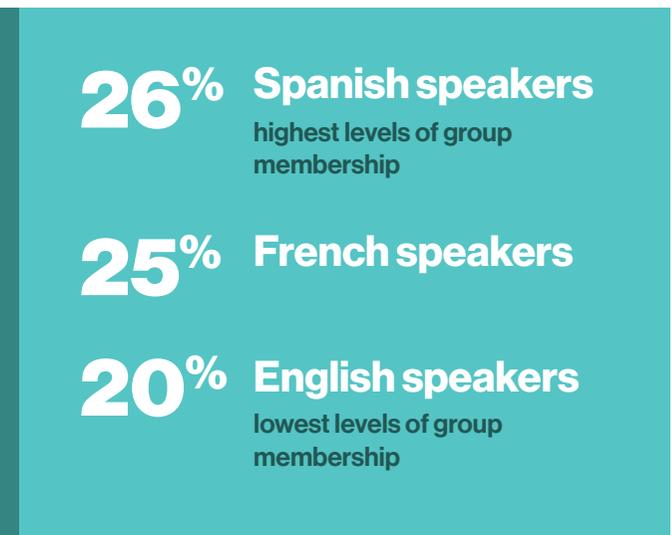
 Overview



 Gender differences

 Age group differences

 Language differences



# Community group perceptions

Respondents' feelings about community groups

 Overview

 Community differences

## Reasons for non-membership:



## Most prevalent responses:

**helpful to community**

All communities (27%)

**groups need to be more active**

Jost Van Dyke (22.5%)  
Sea Cows Bay Tortola (10%)  
East End Tortola (10%)

**don't know any groups**

Sea Cows Bay Tortola (14%)  
Jost Van Dyke (5%)

# Community participation opportunities

Respondents' opportunities to participate in community development activities

 Overview

Had an opportunity to participate in community activities



Jost Van Dyke  
**65%**

East End Tortola  
**47%**

Sea Cows Bay Tortola  
**44%**

**48%**

 Gender differences

 Age group differences

 Language differences



**55%**  
Males



**39%**  
Females



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

**49%** English speakers

**43%** Spanish speakers

**25%** French speakers



Community participation and inclusion

# Community activities

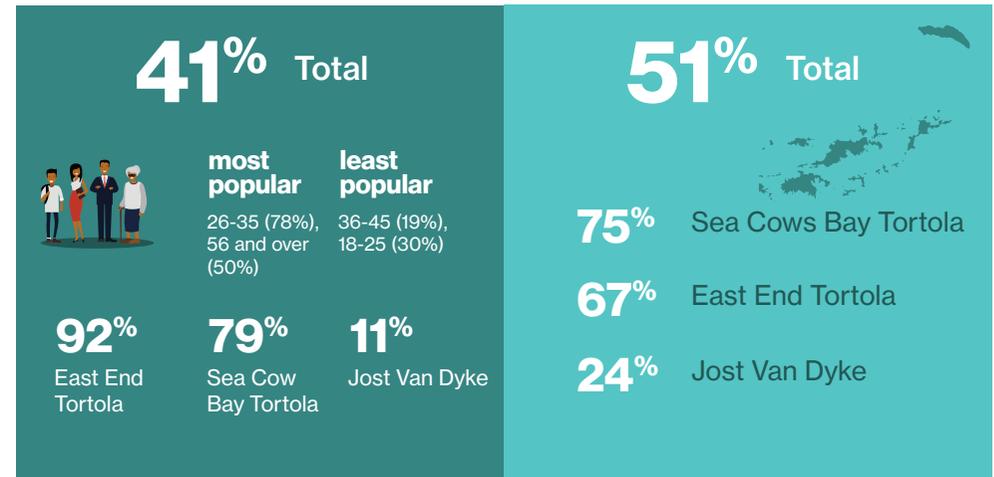
Highest ranked activities by overall participation rate



Parties



Disaster preparedness activities



Overview



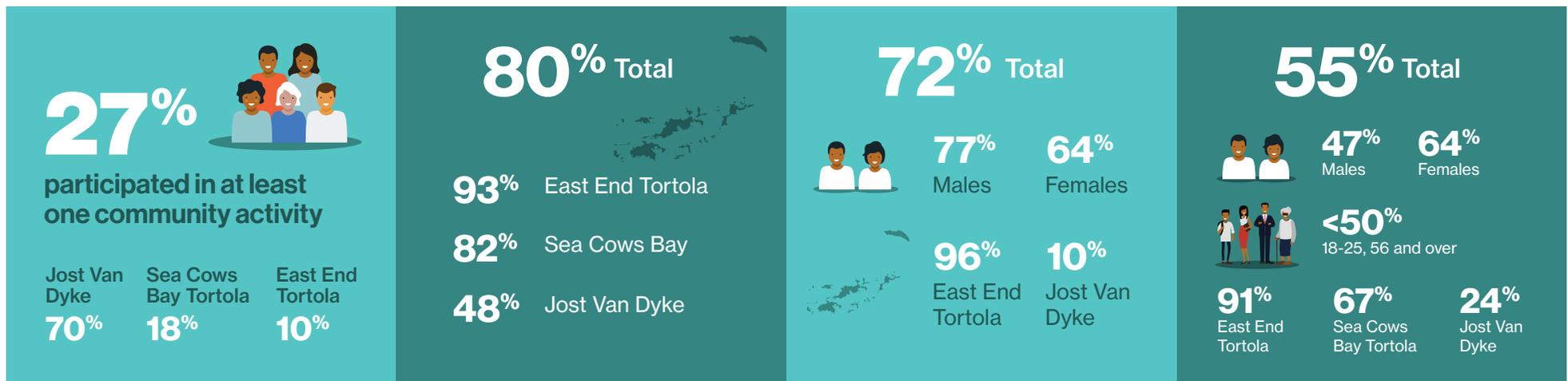
Religious activities



Sports



Parents Teacher Association meetings

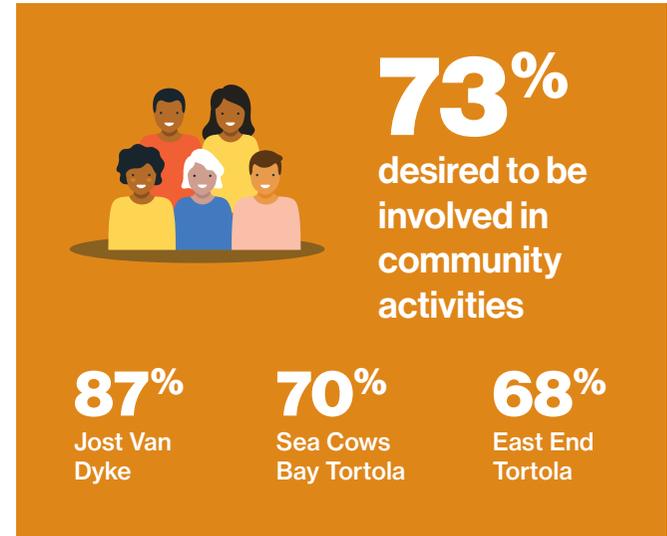


# Engagement preferences

- 17 Community development involvement
- 18 Communication setting
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# Community development involvement

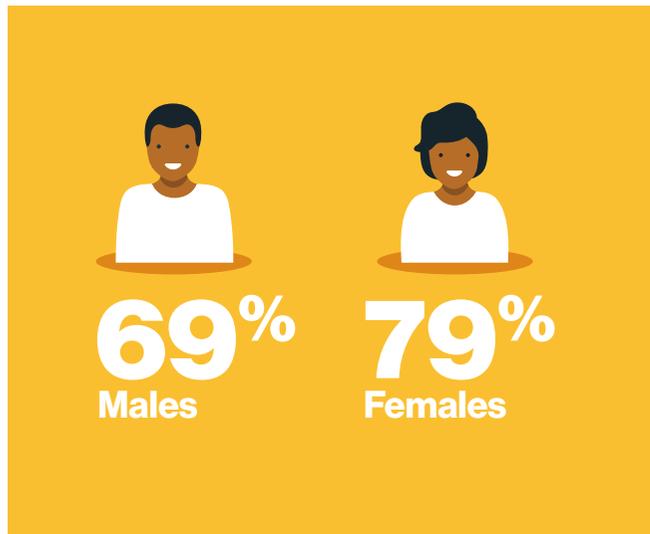
Respondents' desire for community development involvement



Gender differences

Age group differences

Language differences



# Communication setting

Respondents' preferred location for receiving communication

 Overview

 Gender differences

 Age group differences

The top two preferred settings were:



**40%**

Community Meetings



**36%**

Church



**52%**

Males preferred Community meeting



**47%**

Females preferred Church

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

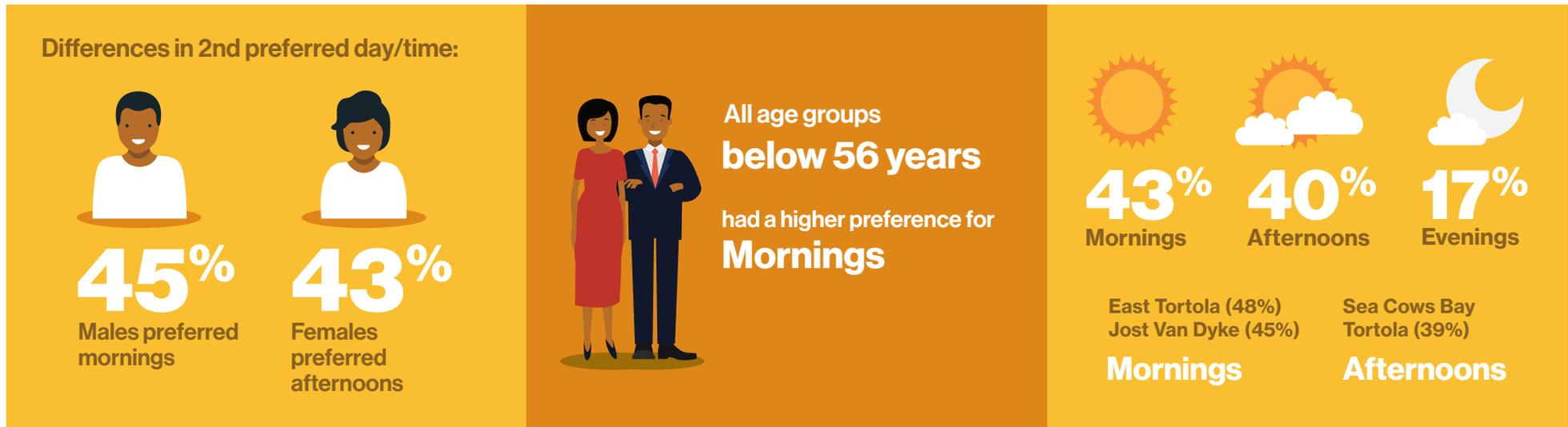
Respondents' preferred day and time to be informed about community activities



## Gender differences

## Age group differences

## Preferred time



# Frequency of communication

Respondents' preferred frequency of community updates



Overview

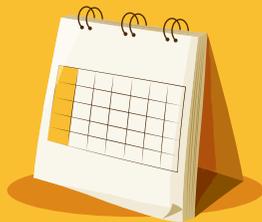


Community differences



Language differences

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

## Bi-weekly

French speakers

**75%**



## Monthly

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

Communication channels

# Electronic device access

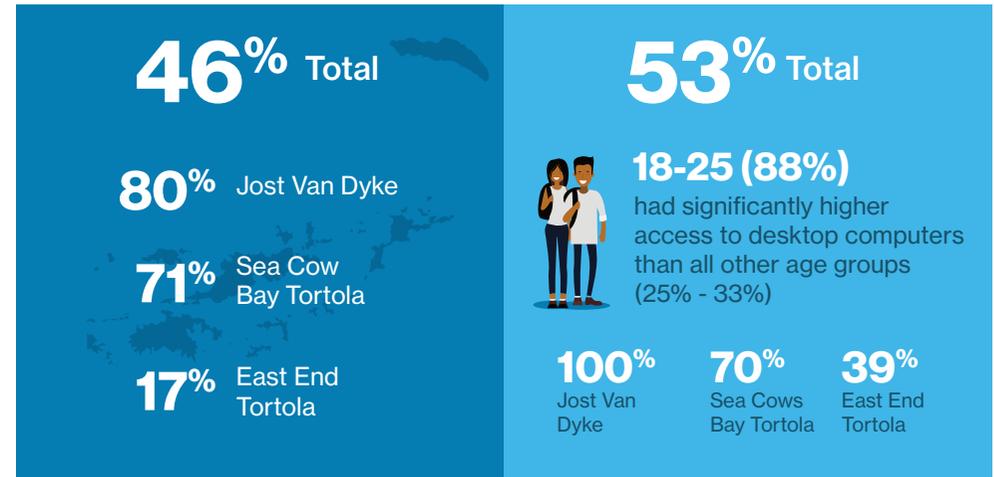
Respondents' level of access to electronic devices



Tablet



Desktop Computer



Overview



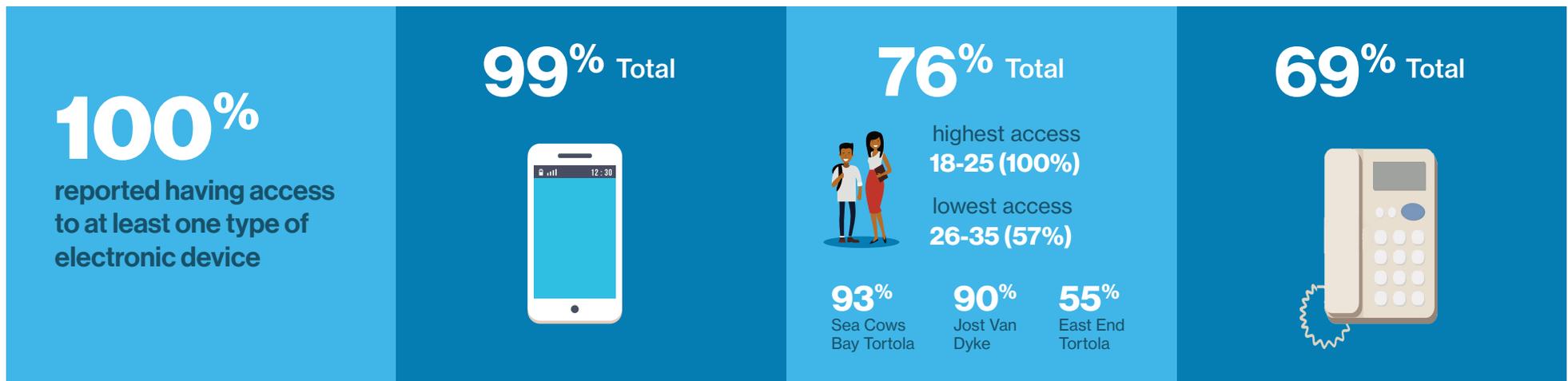
Cell phone



Laptop computer



Landline



# Internet service availability

Respondents' level of access to internet service



Overview



Language differences



**98%**

indicated they had internet access

**75%**

French Speakers

**>95%**

All other language groups

# Internet service quality

Respondents' most prevalent ratings of internet quality



Occupational differences

**Skilled Agricultural Forestry and Fishery Workers, Managing Directors and Chief Executives, Teaching Professionals, and House Builders**

Only occupations which reported:

**very good**



Overview



Community differences



Age group differences



Language differences

Top 3 responses:



**38%** fair

**26%** poor

**20%** very poor

All communities

**fair (33%)**

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



 Overview

 Community differences

 Age group differences



# Emergency alert preference

Respondents' most preferred means for receiving emergency alerts

 Overview

 Community differences

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

 Overview

 Community differences

Top 3 means:



**41%**

Text messages



**30%**

Radio



**22%**

Word of mouth

## 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%).

# Trusted information sources

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

 Overview

 Community differences

Top 5 most trusted sources:



**26%**  
Government agencies



**25%**  
Neighbours



**15%**  
Parents



**15%**  
Pastors



**13%**  
Community leaders

**Neighbours and pastors**

East End Tortola

**Government agencies and neighbours**

Sea Cows Bay Tortola

**Government Agencies and community leaders**

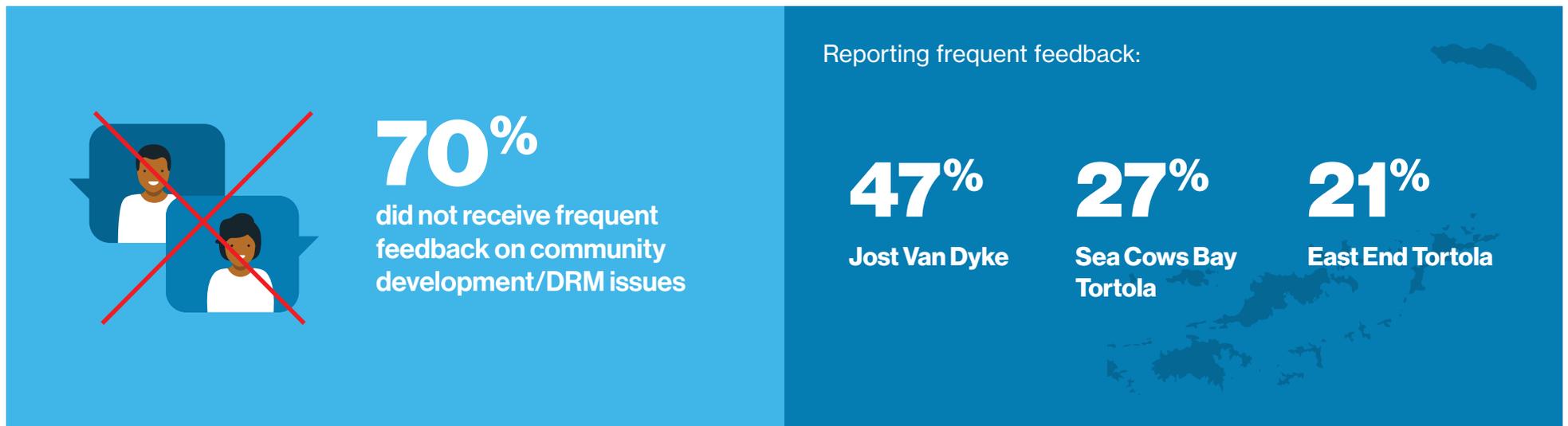
Jost Van Dyke

# 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

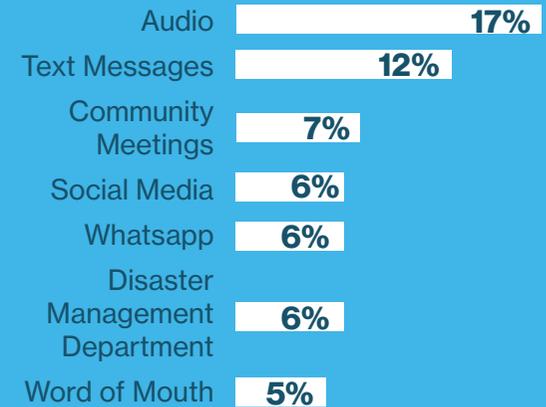
 Community differences



# Preferred method of feedback from government agencies

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 methods:



Community differences



Occupational differences

Top preferred method:

**audio and text messages**

**East End Tortola and Sea Cows Bay Tortola**

**feedback from the Disaster Management Department and Community meetings**

**Jost Van Dyke**



**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**

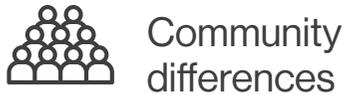
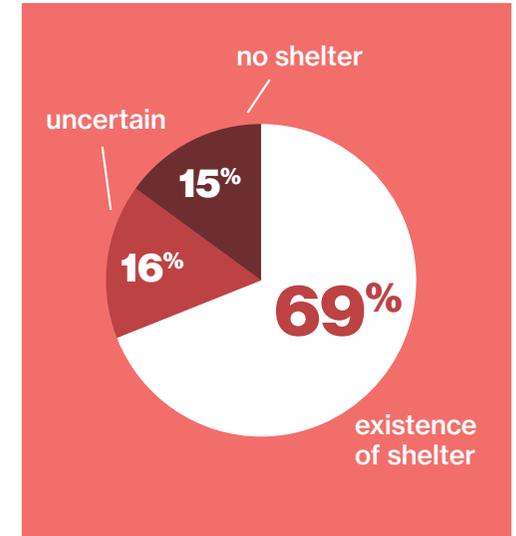
Gardener

# Hazard Management Practices

- 32 Community Emergency Shelters
- 33 Community disaster plan awareness
- 34 Presence of a family disaster plan

# Community Emergency Shelters

Respondents' awareness of community emergency shelters



Awareness of emergency shelter:

**74%** Sea Cows Bay Tortola

**68%** East End Tortola

**54%** Jost Van Dyke

Awareness of emergency shelter:

**74%** Males

**62%** Females



**18-25**  
highest awareness  
**86%**



**26-35**  
lowest awareness  
**58%**

**>70%** awareness  
English, French Speakers

**46%** lowest awareness  
Spanish speakers

# Community disaster plan awareness

Respondents' awareness of community disaster plan



Overview



Community differences



# Presence of a family disaster plan

Respondents having a family disaster plan



Overview



Language differences



**53%**

did not have a family disaster plan

Had a family disaster plan:

**French speakers**

**100%**

**English speakers**

**48%**

**Spanish speakers**

**29%**

