

Thinking globally,
acting locally...

European Migration Network

11th June 2024

Migration Crisis – A Global View

110 m forcibly displaced people worldwide in June 2023, an increase of more than 1.6m from December 2022

52% of displaced peoples originate from 3 countries – Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan

More than 1 in 73 people worldwide are displaced

“These figures show us that some people are far too quick to rush to conflict, and way too slow to find solutions. The consequence is devastation, displacement, and anguish for each of the millions of people forcibly uprooted from their homes.”

Filippo Grandi
UN High Commissioner for Refugees



Irish response - a legal context



Refugee Convention 1951

Internationally recognized definition of a refugee and outlines the legal protection, rights and assistance a refugee is entitled to receive.

International protection Act 2015 (Ireland)

Introduction of a single procedure for applications for international protection.

EU Recast Directive on Asylum

Creates EU rules on reception conditions for applicants for international protection awaiting examination of cases.

Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55 EC) activated by EU Council Decision EU 2022/382

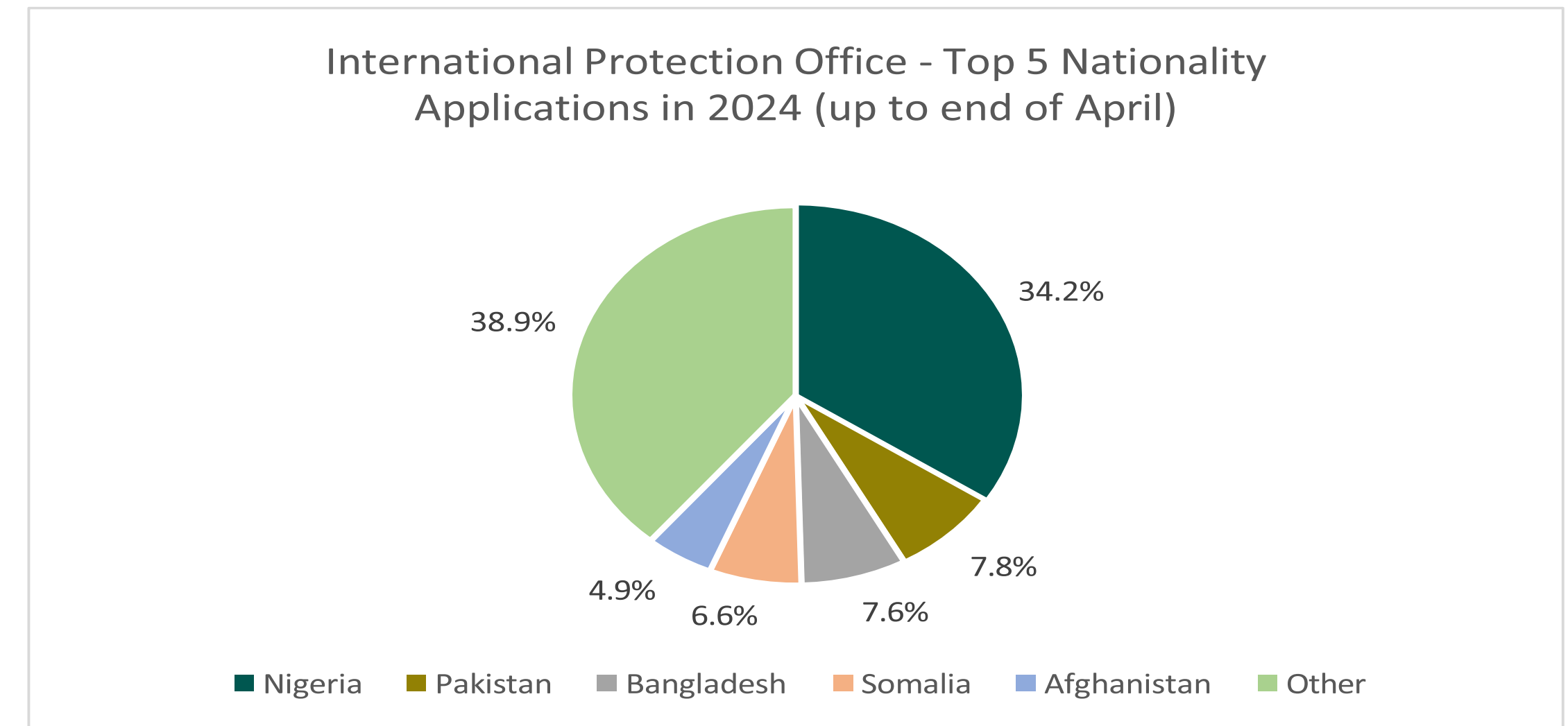
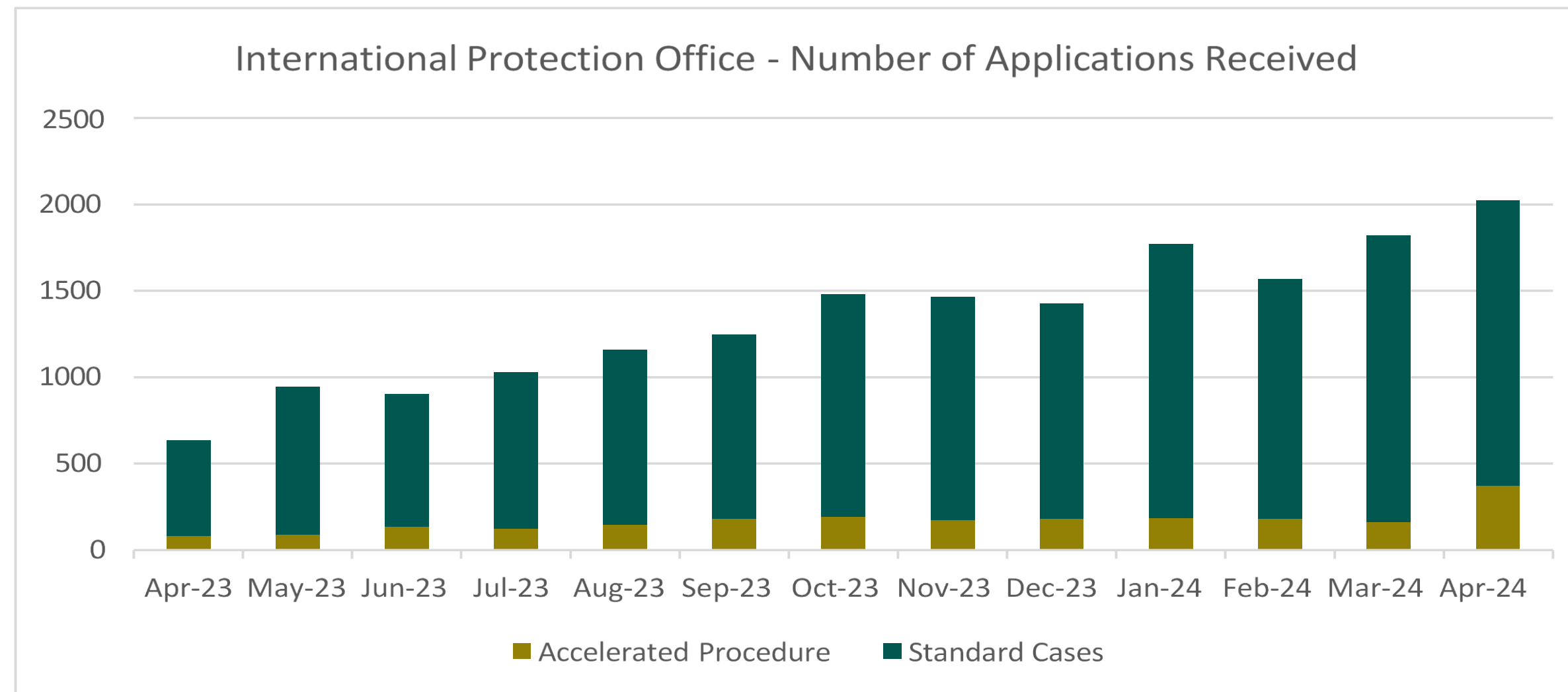
As of 4 March 2022 immediate protection in EU countries for people displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



Source: IDMC & UNHCR)



Applications and main nationalities



- In April there were 2,024 applications received for asylum. This is up from 1,391 last April. The average number of applications per month between May 2023 and April 2024 was 1,403
- For April 2024, the total number of applications included 372 from accelerated procedure (18% of all applicants)
- The main countries of origin for 2024 to date are: Nigeria (2,460 applications), Pakistan (559), Bangladesh (545), Somalia (475) and Afghanistan (352)

Source: [gov - International Protection in Numbers \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

Shelter is a primary concern



Refugees: 3 Emergency Reception and orientation Centres

Beneficiaries of Temporary protection: As of 5 June DCEDIY is providing 45,386 BOTPs with accommodation.

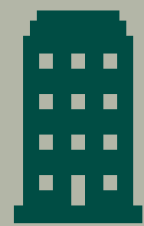
International Protection Applicants: As of 6 June DCEDIY is providing 31,032 IPAs with accommodation.

Source: [gov](http://www.gov.ie) - [Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection \(BOTPs\) \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

It's challenging.....



There has been a need to act with speed to deal with the upsurge in arrivals from Ukraine and international protection applicants



Accommodation has had to be secured at short-notice with all viable options having to be considered



At times, the State has had to prioritise expediency over engagement with local communities



Priority is to endeavour to inform local communities to the greatest extent possible of new developments in their areas

Community Engagement



Initial engagement of refugees with communities through Friends of Centres. (EROCs), impromptu local groups.

The Irish State launched a Community Sponsorship Ireland model in December 2018 as an alternative way to resettle refugees in Ireland, one which would engage communities.

Following the fall of Kabul (August 2021) a version of CS was used to offer emergency sanctuary to those fleeing Kabul including women judges, members of LGBT community, Human Rights Defenders etc. This initiative was supported by members of the Irish judiciary, journalists, sports groups etc alongside State and NGOs.

October 2023 Community Engagement Team set up.

Organic development of For All groups



What CET do

The Community Engagement Team (CET) was established in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and with the support of Department of An Taoiseach, **to engage directly with elected representatives, relevant Local Authorities, Local Development Companies,** and other entities and individuals.



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

CET OBJECTIVES

Structures

- Clear structures to engage with key stakeholders, public representatives and community leaders on Ireland's response to increased immigration due to the war in Ukraine and an increase in international protection applicants

Co-ordination

- More effective co-ordination across Government Departments, agencies, local authorities and communities

Information flow

- Improve information flow between Government Departments and local communities

Updates

- Provide a mechanism for updates and queries between local stakeholders and relevant authorities



CET engages with:

Political system through briefings and meetings

Departments through Department Leads who address service related issues

Department of An Taoiseach through Senior Officials Group

Local Authorities via Community Integration Fora and Local Area Integration Teams

Local communities through focused meetings



Public facing meetings

The CET meets with community representatives in one venue where **all views can be respectfully shared.**

The meetings are by invitation rather than a full public meeting and generally include 10/12 people.

The CET presents information, listens and brings feedback on any legitimate concerns to the administration team who liaise with various teams with the aim of responding to communities as quickly as possible.

Communities have needs



Issues that arise within Community Engagement Team meetings with communities include:

- That the unique characteristics and needs of communities are recognised, drawn upon and enhanced to provide an integrated community.
- Communities wish to retain their values.
- At a time of limited resources, inevitable questions about allocation of resources can lead communities to question whether accepting newcomers with needs can be justified, when 'our own' need help.
- The lack of consultation with the community in advance of a decision to use accommodation in their area causes strain but is often unavoidable

A town near you

The property

- Property offered to IPPS
- Due diligence performed
- Property management assigned
- Property assigned to IPAS
- Services activated locally through Community integration Forum

The people

- Briefing issued
- Protests may begin at site
- Engagement undertaken
- Residents arrive
- Local Area Integration Team engage
- ***Town for All*** groups support residents.





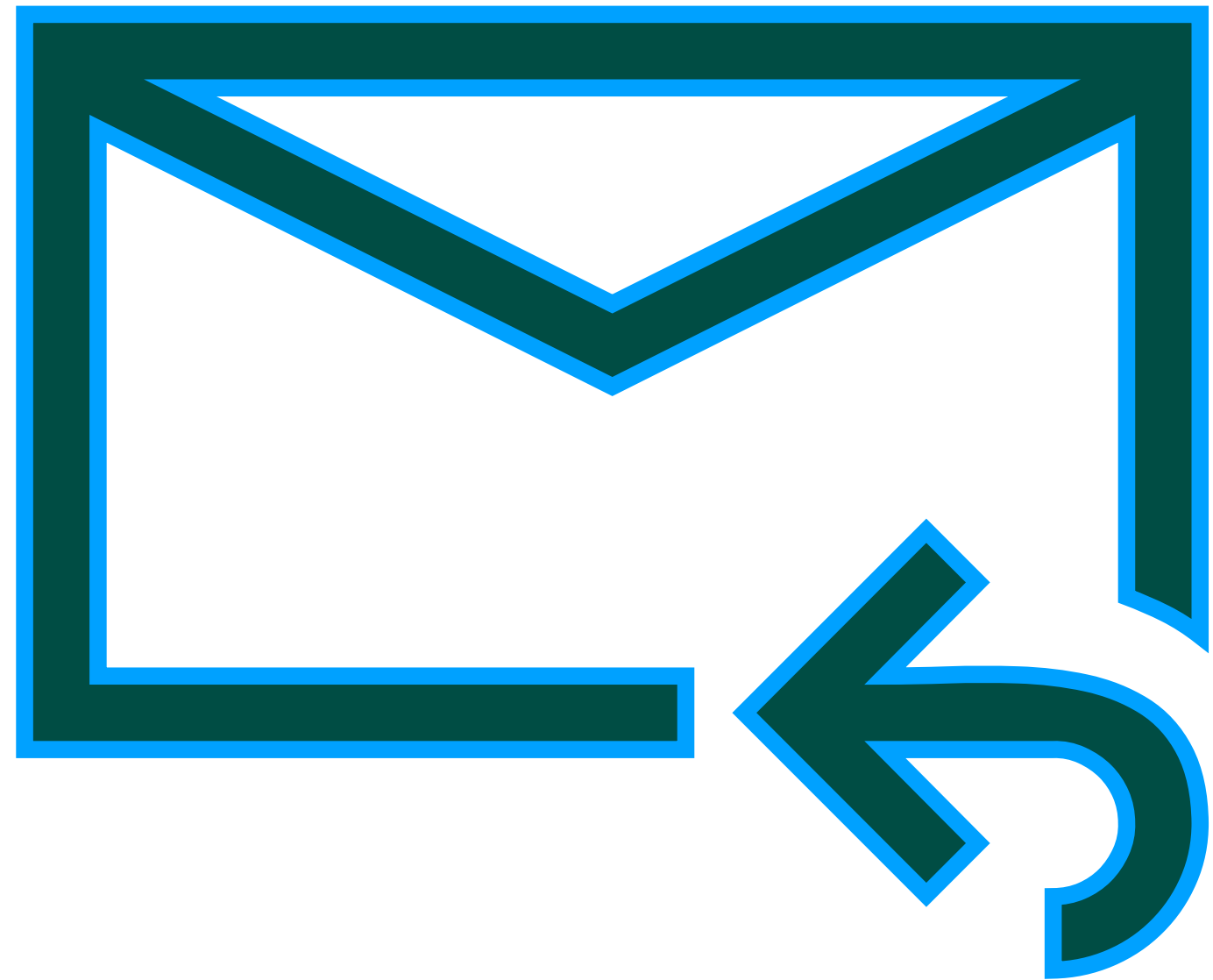
CET Engagement with Local Authority

Regular meetings of Community Integration Fora are held and LAITs are funded through DCEDIY

- LAITs included in briefings
- LAITs will support communities welcoming BOTPs, IPs and Refugees
- CET provide support for engagement with government Departments where required
- Plan and deliver local information activities together as appropriate
- CET assist with flow of information to LAITs and communities.



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