



Fact Sheet: Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

What is Deferred Enforced Departure?

A form of relief from removal. Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) (formerly [Extended Voluntary Departure](#)) allows certain individuals from designated countries and regions facing political or civic conflict or natural disaster to [stay](#) in the United States.

DED is a temporary immigration benefit. It provides an administrative [stay](#) of removal designated for specific period of time.

Which countries are currently designated for DED?

Because these countries have only recently been designated for DED, the USCIS [website](#) has not yet been updated and does not provide information on how eligible individuals can apply, and a notice will need to be posted in the Federal Register implementing these memos.

1) Liberia. On January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden issued a [proclamation](#) reinstating DED and work authorization until June 30, 2022 for Liberians who had DED protections that expired on January 10, 2021. Previously, President Donald Trump had [extended](#) DED for Liberians until January 10, 2021 following the enactment of the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) in December 2019. The NDAA included a [Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness \(LRIF\)](#) provision making certain Liberians eligible to apply for lawful permanent resident status (LPR) until December 20, 2020.

On March 27, 2018, President Trump had issued a [memorandum](#) directing DHS to start a 12-month wind-down period of DED for Liberia, but eventually [extended](#) DED protections twice during his administration. President George W. Bush initially [granted](#) DED to about [10,000 Liberians](#) in the U.S. after their TPS expired in 2007.

2) Venezuela. On January 19, 2021, President Trump issued a [memorandum](#) granting DED and work authorization to Venezuelans residing in the U.S. as of January 20, 2021 for a period of 18 months.

How many people currently hold DED?

1) Liberians – estimates range up to 3,600. While the actual number of Liberian DED holders is [unclear](#), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [estimates](#) about 3,600 Liberians were TPS holders at the time DHS terminated their status in 2007. As of October 2020, data from USCIS shows that [2,532](#) Liberians have applied for lawful permanent resident status under the LRIF provision. Only Liberians who held TPS before its termination are [eligible](#) for DED.

2) Venezuelans – estimates ranges from 94,000 to 200,000. While the actual number of Venezuelans impacted by DED is unclear, there were about [94,000](#) Venezuelan nationals in the U.S. without authorization as of 2018. This number, however, does not include all Venezuelans as

information is not collected at all ports of entry. In a report analyzing the impact of the proposed [Venezuelan TPS Act of 2019](#), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimated](#) about 200,000 Venezuelans would be eligible for TPS protection, which would likely be the [same number](#) protected by DED.

Who designates countries for DED?

The President. The President of the United States has the [discretion](#) to designate countries or regions for DED as part of the president's power to conduct foreign relations. The president generally grants DED, which has no [statutory basis](#), by issuing a presidential directive through an executive order or presidential memorandum.

Who is eligible for DED?

Individuals meeting the criteria in the president's directive. Eligibility criteria for DED are [country or region-specific](#) offset forth in the president's directive together with any additional requirements issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The eligibility criteria typically [include](#) demonstration of continuous presence in the U.S. since a specific date.

How long do individuals generally receive DED?

It depends on each country's or region's designation. The president establishes the initial time frame for DED and may decide to [extend](#) the protection before its expiration date.

Are DED holders allowed to work?

Yes. The president's directive may provide that individuals eligible for DED [may apply](#) for work authorization.

Can DED holders travel abroad?

Not without advance parole. While the presidential directive may include travel authorization, currently DED holders [must file and be approved](#) for advance parole if they want to travel abroad. Advance parole is a travel document that allows individuals who do not have a visa to be readmitted to the U.S. after travelling abroad during a specific approved time period.

Does DED differ from Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and deferred action?

Yes. The following table summarizes the differences between DED, TPS and deferred action:

	DED	<u>TPS</u>	<u>Deferred Action</u>
Type of relief	Protection from deportation.	Temporary immigration benefit.	Protection from deportation.
Permanency	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.
Designation	By U.S. President.	By DHS Secretary.	By DHS.
Consultation with Secretary of State	Not required.	Required.	Not required.
Eligibility	Country or region-specific.	Country-specific.	On individual case-by-case basis or for specified population categories.
Expiration	Country or region-specific with option for extension.	Country-specific with option for extension.	On case-by-case basis usually with option for extension.
Work authorization	Yes, with limited expiration date and option for renewal if DED is extended.	Yes, with limited expiration date and option for renewal if TPS is extended.	Yes, with limited expiration date and option for renewal if Deferred Action is extended.
Travel abroad	Not automatically allowed and only with advance parole.	Not automatically allowed and only with advance parole	Not automatically allowed and only with advance parole.

Which other countries or regions were previously granted DED?

China, Persian Gulf, El Salvador and Haiti. DED was [first granted](#) in 1990 and has been granted [five times](#) to provide an administrative stay of removal for certain individuals from China, Persian Gulf, El Salvador, Haiti and Liberia.