



## 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?

**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 and work authorization expire on January 10, 2021. In December 2019, Congress enacted the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#), which included a [Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness \(LRIF\)](#) provision making certain Liberians eligible for lawful permanent resident status (LPR). Eligible Liberian nationals could apply for LPR until December 20, 2020. President Donald Trump extended DED protections through January 10, 2021, the second [extension](#) since his [memorandum](#) on March 27, 2018 directing DHS to start a 12-month wind-down period of the program. President George W. Bush initially [granted](#) DED to about [10,000 Liberians](#) in the U.S. after their TPS expired in 2007.

**2) Venezuela.** 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, through July 20, 2022.

### How many Liberians and Venezuelans currently hold DED?

**1) Liberia – likely ranges from 840 to 3,600 Liberians.** While the actual number of Liberian DED holders is [unclear](#), there were about [840](#) Liberian nationals with approved employment authorization under the DED directive in March 2018. This number, however, does not include all Liberians with DED as some of them may not have applied for work permits. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [estimates](#) about 3,600 Liberians were TPS holders at the time DHS terminated their status in 2007. Only Liberians who held TPS before its termination are [eligible](#) for DED. As of October 2020, data from USCIS shows that [2,532](#) Liberians have applied for lawful permanent resident status under the LRIF provision.

**2) Venezuela – likely ranges from 94,000 to 200,000 Venezuelans.** 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 potentially 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:

	<b>DED</b>	<b><u>TPS</u></b>	<b><u>Deferred Action</u></b>
<b>Type of relief</b>	Protection from deportation.	Temporary immigration benefit.	Protection from deportation.
<b>Permanency</b>	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.
<b>Designation</b>	By U.S. President.	By DHS Secretary.	By DHS.
<b>Consultation with Secretary of State</b>	Not required.	Required.	Not required.
<b>Eligibility</b>	Country or region-specific.	Country-specific.	On individual case-by-case basis or for specified population categories.
<b>Expiration</b>	Country or region-specific with option for extension.	Country-specific with option for extension.	On case-by-case basis usually with option for extension.
<b>Work authorization</b>	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.
<b>Travel abroad</b>	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.