



## How Many South Sudanese Nationals Would Potentially Benefit Under Redesignation of Temporary Protected Status?<sup>1</sup>

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This brief provides estimates regarding the number of South Sudanese nationals who would benefit from redesignation under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), e.g., the establishment of a new cut-off date for South Sudan. TPS for South Sudan has not been redesignated since January 2016, meaning that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the option to extend protection to people who have arrived in the years since. People who arrived in the United States more recently need protection from the humanitarian catastrophe in South Sudan just as much as current TPS holders.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, the administration failed to redesignate South Sudan for TPS at any of the previous decision dates. Key findings of this brief include:

- Upwards of 150 South Sudanese nationals were eligible for TPS on the last redesignation date, January 25, 2016.<sup>3</sup>
- The State Department issued visas to 2,511 South Sudanese nationals from February 2016 (the current designation and cut-off date for South Sudan) through June 2020.<sup>4</sup>
- Thus, redesignation could potentially benefit upwards of 2,511 additional South Sudanese nationals.<sup>5</sup> However, as some of these visa holders may have departed, decided not to enter the United States after issuance of the visa, or visas could have been issued to the same individual multiple years, the actual number of potential beneficiaries may be lower.
- Combining the number of eligible individuals at the last date of redesignation (150) to the estimated eligible individuals potentially eligible for redesignation (2,511) provides us with a total estimate of upwards of 2,661 eligible South Sudanese nationals who would benefit under extension and redesignation of TPS.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Please contact Lisa Parisio ([lparisio@cliniclegal.org](mailto:lparisio@cliniclegal.org)) if you have any questions or comments.

<sup>2</sup> See 84 Fed. Reg. 13,688 (Apr. 5, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> 81 Fed. Reg. 4,051, 4,054 (Jan. 25, 2016), [www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/01/25/2016-01388/extension-and-redesignation-of-south-sudan-for-temporary-protected-status](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/01/25/2016-01388/extension-and-redesignation-of-south-sudan-for-temporary-protected-status) (“It is estimated that an additional 25-150 nationals of South Sudan (and persons without nationality who last habitually resided in South Sudan) may be eligible for TPS under the redesignation of South Sudan. This estimate is based on the total number of South Sudanese nationals believed to be in the United States in a nonimmigrant status or without lawful immigration status.”).

<sup>4</sup> See *infra* tbl. 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> 81 Fed. Reg. at 4,054; *infra* tbl. 1.

## Methodology

<b>Table 1. South Sudan Nonimmigrant Visas</b>	
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Visas Issued</i>
FY 2016 Adjusted	362
FY 2017	545
FY 2018	693
FY 2019	
October (2018)	55
November (2018)	28
December (2018)	38
January (2019)	32
February (2019)	60
March (2019)	72
April (2019)	45
May (2019)	66
June (2019)	36
July (2019)	40
August (2019)	112
September (2019)	90
FY 2020	
October (2019)	46
November (2019)	39
December (2019)	48
January	57
February	28
March	16
April	1
May	1
June	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2511</b>
<i>Source: USCIS NIV Issuances</i>	

To obtain estimates regarding the total eligible population, we examined nonimmigrant visa entries since a country’s last designation. To calculate nonimmigrant visas issued, we tabulated annual and monthly entries for all visa types for South Sudan since that country’s last designation or redesignation. Generally, we did not count visas issued for the month the designation or redesignation occurred, unless the date of designation or redesignation was before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. For South Sudan, we began with the number of nationals who were eligible for TPS on the last redesignation date, January 25, 2016: 150.<sup>7</sup> We obtained the total

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<sup>7</sup> 81 Fed. Reg. at 4,054.

number of nationals who were issued any type of visa beginning February 2016 through June of 2020: 2,661.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Tbl. 1.