



November 1, 2022

Lora Adams
Human and Immigrant Rights Organizations
Lora@masadc.com

Dear Ms. Adams:

Thank you for your October 3, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting a designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ethiopia. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program, and Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Ethiopia and your interest in its TPS designation. On October 21, 2022, after careful consideration, including a thorough review of the country conditions and consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Mayorkas announced the new designation of Ethiopia for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months. This designation of TPS for Ethiopia enables Ethiopian nationals—and individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Ethiopia—who have been continuously residing in the United States since October 20, 2022 to file applications to register for TPS. For additional information, please see the press release announcing the designation of TPS for Ethiopia.¹

DHS estimates that approximately 26,700 individuals may be eligible for TPS under Ethiopia's 18-month designation, which will go into effect on the publication date of the forthcoming Federal Register notice. This notice will also provide fee information and instructions for applying for TPS, an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), and a fee waiver.

In addition to TPS, USCIS also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible Ethiopian nationals affected by conditions there. Such support includes the following:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible Ethiopian nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/10/21/dhs-designates-ethiopia-temporary-protected-status-18-months>.

- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the natural disaster; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available on the “Special Situations” webpage of the USCIS website at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please share this response with the other organizations that cosigned your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director