

# Unemployment to remain high, quality jobs harder to find in 2018 – UN labour agency

22 January 2018 – While the global economy has kept up modest growth, the total number of unemployed people will likely remain high in 2018 – at above 192 million – and it will be harder to find a decent job, the United Nations labour agency reported on Monday.

“Even though global unemployment has stabilized, [decent work deficits remain widespread](#): the global economy is still not creating enough jobs. Additional efforts need to be put in place to improve the quality of work for jobholders and to ensure that the gains of growth are shared equitably,” ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said.

The [World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2018](#), a flagship report by the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)), examines employment and social trends for the world as a whole and for each region, and analyses structural transformation and implications for future job quality.

The report says the global economy grew 3.6 per cent in 2017, after hitting a six-year low of 3.2 per cent in 2016. The recovery was broad based, driven by expansions in developing, emerging and developed countries alike. Future growth is likely to stay below four per cent, as economic activity normalizes in most major economies without significant stimulus and fixed investment remains at a moderate level.

The projected fall in the 2018 global unemployment rate would also mark a turnaround after three years of rises, and would remain essentially unchanged in 2019, according to the report. However, with a growing number of people entering the labour market to seek employment, the total number of unemployed is expected to remain above 192 million in 2018, and that number would likely grow by 1.3 million in 2019.

**VIDEO:** What to Expect from the Global Jobs Market in 2018. Source: ILO

## *Vulnerable employment is on the rise*

The report also notes that the number of workers in vulnerable forms of employment, such as own-account workers and contributing family workers, is likely to increase in the years to come. Globally, the significant achievements had been made in reducing vulnerable employment but progress has essentially stalled since 2012.

In 2017, about 42 per cent of workers, or 1.4 billion, worldwide were estimated to be in vulnerable forms of employment. This share was expected to remain particularly high in developing and emerging countries, at above 76

per cent and 46 per cent, respectively. Worryingly, the number of people in vulnerable employment is projected to increase by 17 million in each of 2018 and 2019.

#### ***Slow pace of reducing 'working poverty'***

Similarly, the global labour market has seen only weak progress in addressing the problem of 'working poverty,' or living under poverty lines despite employment, the report says. In 2017, extreme working poverty remained widespread, with more than 300 million workers in emerging and developing countries having a per capita household income or consumption of less than \$1.90 per day.

"In developing countries though, progress in reducing working poverty is too slow to keep up with the expanding labour force. The number of workers living in extreme poverty is expected to remain stubbornly above 114 million for the coming years, affecting 40 per cent of all employed people in 2018," explains ILO economist Stefan Kühn, lead author of the report.

Emerging countries, on the other hand, achieved significant progress in reducing extreme working poverty, which is expected to affect less than 8 per cent, or around 190 million, of workers there in 2017.

The incidence of extreme poverty should continue to fall, translating into a reduction in the number of extreme working poor by 10 million per year in 2018 and 2019. Nevertheless, moderate working poverty, in which workers live on an income of between \$1.90 and \$3.10 per day, remains widespread, affecting 430 million workers in emerging and developing countries in 2017.

**To dig deeper into the data [click here](#).**

The report also looks at the influence of population ageing. It shows that the growth of the global workforce will not be sufficient to compensate for the rapidly expanding pool of retirees. The average age of working people is projected to rise from just under 40 in 2017 to over 41 in 2030.

"Besides the challenge of a growing number of retirees creates for pension systems, an increasingly ageing workforce is also likely to have a direct impact on labour markets. Ageing could lower productivity and slow down labour market adjustments following economic shocks," says the ILO's Director of Research Department a. i., Sangheon Lee.

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**[UN agency for Palestine refugee launches global funding push after US](#)**

## aid cuts

22 January 2018 – The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ([UNRWA](#)) launched on Monday a global fundraising campaign to sustain resources for its education, health and other assistance programmes.

The campaign follows the announcement by the United States to withhold more than half its funding commitment to the UN agency.

“I wish to confirm to all Palestine refugees that UNRWA schools [...] will remain open [and] health care, and other services will be provided. It is a huge challenge, but it is absolutely imperative,” Pierre Krähenbühl, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, said in Gaza, [launching](#) the campaign, ‘#DignityIsPriceless’.

The UN agency said the reduction in US funding could have a significant impact on the daily lives of millions of vulnerable Palestine refugees across Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, and the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

It added that basic education for 525,000 boys and girls at over 700 UNRWA schools; emergency food and cash assistance to 1.7 million Palestine refugees; access to primary health care for 3 million refugees, including pre-natal care; and dignity and human security for 5.3 million refugees, have been endangered as result of the limited funding.

The UNRWA chief underscored that the agency’s mandate is “firmly protected” in a UN General Assembly resolution and called on “all people of good will, all institutions, members of the Palestinian diaspora, private companies, and foundations” to extend their support to the campaign.

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## Guterres urges Congolese security forces to exercise restraint amid reports six people killed in protests

22 January 2018 – Amid disturbing reports that at least six people were killed on Sunday during political protests in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) United Nations [Secretary-General](#) António Guterres has urged Congolese security forces to respect the people’s right to free speech and freedom of assembly.

“The Secretary-General urges the Congolese security forces to exercise restraint,” said a [statement](#) issued this afternoon by UN Spokesman Stéphane

Dujarric, in the wake of reports which suggest that along with the fatalities, that 63 people were injured during the protests, which are calling for implementation of the 31 December 2016 political agreement.

Mr. Guterres called on the Congolese authorities to conduct credible investigations into these incidents and to hold those responsible accountable.

Similar demonstrations three weeks ago led to a number of deaths. The protests have been taking place in the vicinity of churches in and in the regard, the UN chief today, 'called upon all concerned to ensure full respect for places of worship.'

The agreement at the heart of the protests — facilitated by *Conférence Episcopale Nationale du Congo* (CENCO) mediators — allowed President Joseph Kabila to stay in power beyond the end of his term and stipulated that peaceful, credible and inclusive elections would be organized in the DRC by the end of December 2017.

The polls were reportedly pushed back to December 2018, sparking violent protests late last month.

"The Secretary-General, once again, calls on Congolese political actors to work towards the full implementation of the 31 December political agreement, which remains the only viable path to the holding of elections, the peaceful transfer of power and the consolidation of stability in the [country]," the statement concluded.

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## [Afghanistan: UN strongly condemns terrorist attack on Kabul hotel](#)

21 January 2018 — Senior United Nations officials, including [Secretary-General](#) António Guterres as well as the head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan ([UNAMA](#)) have strongly condemned a terrorist attack on a hotel in the country's capital, Kabul.

In a [statement](#) attributable to his spokesperson, Secretary-General Guterres offered his deepest condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

He expresses his solidarity with the Government and people of Afghanistan, added the statement.

According to initial reports, at least six civilians, including one woman, were killed and at least three others injured in the attack which took place on Saturday night, local time. The actual number could be higher.

The Intercontinental Hotel was scheduled to hold a technology conference on 21 January, organized by Afghanistan's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Also at the hotel, guests had gathered for a wedding ceremony.

According to UNAMA, in claiming responsibility, the Taliban stated that five attackers entered the hotel to target Afghan officials and foreign nationals.

In a separate [statement](#), Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the head of UNAMA said that it is a moral outrage that the Taliban entered the hotel with the intention of killing civilians.

Underscoring the obligation on all parties to the armed conflict in the country to respect International Humanitarian Law at all times, he added: "There is simply no justification for this egregious attack, which is specifically prohibited by International Humanitarian Law and may amount to a war crime."

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## [Amid unprecedented needs, UN, aid partners launch largest consolidated humanitarian appeal for Yemen](#)

21 January 2018 – With the crisis in war-ravaged Yemen continuing to deteriorate, United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners have launched a \$2.96 billion response plan to reach over 13 million people with lifesaving assistance.

Launched Sunday, the [2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan](#) is the largest consolidated humanitarian appeal for Yemen where over two years of relentless conflict has left three quarters of the population in need of humanitarian assistance, including 11.3 million in acute need who urgently require assistance to survive.

"Humanitarian assistance is not the solution to the plight of the people of Yemen, but it is the only lifeline for millions of them," said Jamie McGoldrick, Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, in a [news releasing announcing the launch](#).

"Today, humanitarian partners appeal to the international community to support this critical lifeline."

Worst affected in the midst of the worst man-made humanitarian of current times are the country's children.

[According](#) to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([OCHA](#)), nearly two million children are out of school, and 1.8 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished including 400,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition and are 10 times more likely to die if they do not receive medical treatment.

The Humanitarian Response Plan targets people in acute need or at risk of slipping into acute need.

It also focuses on needs of internally displaced people, returnees and host communities in a more sustainable manner and on working with national institutions, added OCHA.

A strategic priority for the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan is to work with national institutions that provide essential services to prevent their collapse, said Mr. McGoldrick.

We thank donors for their support in 2017, and urge them to support the people of Yemen as they continue to face unprecedented needs, he added.

**To see the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, [click here](#).**