



Global unemployment to increase dramatically due to global economic crisis - 50 million workers at risk

The global economic crisis is expected to lead to a dramatic increase in the number of people joining the ranks of the unemployed, working poor and those

in vulnerable employment, says ILO's latest report, *Global Employment Trends 2009*.

Based on new developments in the labour market and depending on the timeliness and effectiveness of recovery efforts, the report says global unemployment in 2009 could increase over 2007 by a range of 18 million to 30 million workers, and more than 50 million if the situation continues to deteriorate.

The ILO report also said that in this last scenario some 200 million workers, mostly in developing economies could be pushed into extreme poverty. "Apart from the rise in unemployment, the economic downturn is likely to have more important impacts on labour markets in developing regions."

The report noted that the global financial crisis has triggered a serious slowdown in world economic growth, including recession in the largest industrialized countries.

Already the Caribbean has begun to feel the effects of the crisis. The general economic slowdown is dampening demand for tourism, one of the region's key exports and layoffs have begun to take

place in sectors most affected by the slowdown in demand and falling commodity prices.

The crisis is underscoring the relevance of the ILO Decent Work Agenda, said ILO Director-General, Juan Somavia. "We find many elements of this Agenda in current measures to promote job creation, deepening and expanding social protection and more use of social dialogue."

Recommended policy measures

ILO's *Global Employment Trends 2009* lists a number of ILO recommended policy measures being applied by many governments, namely:

- wider coverage of unemployment benefits and insurance schemes, re-skilling redundant workers and protecting pensions from devastating declines in financial markets;
- public investment in infrastructure and housing, community infrastructure and green jobs;
- support to small and medium enterprises; and
- social dialogue at enterprise, sectoral and national levels.



Promoting decent work for all

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

Its main aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

The ILO works through its tripartite membership in 182 countries - governments, employers and workers, all of whom jointly shape its policies and programmes. ILO is the global body responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards.

The ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, based in Trinidad and Tobago, serves 13 ILO member States and 8 non-metropolitan territories of the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Office works closely with United Nations agencies and regional organizations such as CARICOM.

Member States:

Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Non-metropolitan territories:

Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Turks and Caicos Islands.

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The Honourable Pearnel Charles, (centre) Minister of Labour and Social Security and Dr. Ana Teresa Romero, Director, ILO-SRO sign the partnership agreement in Jamaica. At right is Benjamin Smith, Chief Technical Adviser of the project, based in ILO, Geneva.

New projects on child labour launched in Jamaica and Guyana

A new three-year project to tackle child labour through education (TACKLE), has been launched in Jamaica and Guyana. The project will be implemented by the Governments, social partners and other stakeholders under the auspices of the International Labour Organization with financial support from the European Commission. The Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education in the respective countries, will be the lead ministries in this project.

The project aims to contribute to poverty reduction by providing equitable access to basic education and skills development to the most disadvantaged section of the society, and to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities in the formulation, implementation and enforcement of policies to fight child labour.

The project builds on earlier initiatives in the field of child labour and will be reinforced by ongoing activities by the Governments, the social partners, civil society organizations, and other UN system entities.

Belize national tripartite workshop fine tunes Decent Work Country Programme

Tripartite discussions on the development of a Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Belize concluded on 28 January 2009, at a national tripartite programming workshop held in Belize City.

The stage is now set for the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme which will focus

system (LMIS); and 3. institutional strengthening of the social partners.

In October 2008, the Government and social partners agreed on three priorities for the Belize DWCP.

Participants at the workshop included officials from various



Attentive workshop participants

on the following three priorities:

1. modernization and harmonization of national labour legislation, in line with international labour standards and CARICOM Model Labour Laws;
2. improvement of skills and employability, particularly for youth and women, and the development of a supportive labour market information

government ministries/ departments (e g . immigration, education, rural development and statistics), s e n i o r representatives of the social partners and n o n - governmental organizations.

A decision was taken to revitalize the tripartite advisory body, which will play a lead role in monitoring the implementation of the DWCP.

The DWCP is the mechanism through which the ILO will support its constituents in anchoring the goal of decent work in national development policies and strategies.



T&T commemorates World Day for Decent Work

Sir Roy Trotman, Workers' Vice Chairperson, ILO Governing Body, (centre) Labour Minister Rennie Dumas (second from left), Employers' Consultative Association Chairman, Martin DeGannes, (right), Senator Michael Annisette, President, National Trade Union Centre chat after the tripartite seminar to observe the first World Day for Decent Work in Trinidad and Tobago on 7 October 2008. The World Day for Decent Work is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation which represents 168 million workers in 155 countries and territories.

ILO VACANCIES
Please visit the ILO webpage at <https://erecruit.ilo.org> for a list of current ILO vacancies throughout the world



ILO delivers OSH public presentation

ILO has engaged the services of Dr. Alan Le Serve, an international consultant, to undertake an in-depth review of the situation with respect to occupational safety and health and the environment in select Caribbean countries. While in Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, Dr. Le Serve delivered public presentations on the situation of OSH in emerging economies. The presentations were co-hosted by the Ministries of Labour. Dr. Le Serve is a former ILO official and has served as a consultant for several national and international organizations.

SOCIAL SECURITY

ILO introduces new social security training programme

Social security is a basic human right. Efforts to protect this basic right is supported by the ILO's work. In December 2008, the ILO introduced its new social security training programme - QUATRIN AMERICAS, to the Caribbean region. A four-day training workshop on Actuarial Methods and Social Security Financing for non-specialists was held at the Mona School of Business, University of the West Indies. Thirty-seven participants attended the workshop, including technical staff of labour and social security ministries, representatives of National Insurance Schemes, and of employers' and workers' organizations as well as academia, from across the Caribbean region.

Geneva; the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) based in Mexico; and the Occupational Safety and Health Commission (CSST) based in Quebec, Canada.

The core subjects covered included the evolution of the pension reform debate and international social security financing trends; basic elements of modelling of pension schemes and health care schemes; effective social security governance and investment in the context of the financial crisis.

In photo below: Dr. Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, (left - front row) Chief Technical Adviser, QUATRIN AMERICAS, and Mrs. Luesette Howell, Senior Specialist for Employers' Activities, ILO-SRO, with participants of ILO's first social security training course.



The training was delivered by expert international actuaries from ILO,

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

ILO and YTEPP team up to produce small business manual for young entrepreneurs

The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme Ltd (YTEPP) teamed up with the International Labour Organization, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, to produce an adapted



In photo, Dr. Ana Teresa Romero, Director, ILO-SRO and Nigel Forgenie (second from left), CEO, YTEPP, peruse the new manual. Looking on are Mary Read, former Deputy Director, ILO-SRO and Christo Cave, Head, YTEPP's Entrepreneurial Programme.

version of the ILO's "Start Your Business manual for potential entrepreneurs" for Trinidad and Tobago.

The manual aims to assist young entrepreneurs through the step-by-step process of starting a business and will be available to students of YTEPP's entrepreneurial training programme.

The original publication was produced by the ILO Regional Project Office, Harare, Zimbabwe and has been widely used for the ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training programme in different parts of the world.

(An e-version of the manual is available online at www.ilocarib.org.tt in the Digital Library)



Bahamas Labour Department at Career Day and Job Fair

In November 2008, the Labour Department of The Bahamas participated at a Career Day and Job Fair at the College of the Bahamas. The effort was part of its outreach activities to inform job seekers on the services offered by the Labour Department as well as highlight pertinent work-related issues such as occupational safety and health and HIV/AIDS.

HIV AND AIDS

T&T Labour Ministry takes over HIV/AIDS workplace programme

The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development has taken over the reins of the HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Programme for Trinidad and Tobago. The pilot programme implemented by the ILO and the Ministry through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006, came to a close in December 2008. A symbolic hand-over of the programme took place at the end of the ILO HIV/AIDS dissemination workshop held on 25-26 November 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port of Spain.

The objectives of the programme were to reduce employment-related discrimination against persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and to reduce behaviour which puts workers at risk of becoming infected with HIV. The project has covered approximately 15,000 workers in 12 participating enterprises from the Banking and Finance sector,



Dr. Ana Teresa Romero, Director, ILO-SRO, presents an information package on HIV/AIDS, symbolic of the ILO's handing over of the reins to the Ministry of Labour, to former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Carl Francis.

Energy, Manufacturing and Retail, Tourism, Telecommunications, Port, as well as the informal economy.

One of the significant achievements of the programme has been the launch of

a National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS and the setting up of an HIV/AIDS Committee and Unit by the Ministry. A total of 111 members of staff including Labour Relations Officers, Labour Inspectors and Occupational Safety and Health Inspectors have also been trained. Other achievements include the development of HIV/AIDS policies by participating enterprises; the production of a Peer Education Handbook and the training of 180 workers in Peer Education; specialized training in Behaviour Change Communication for members of employers' and workers' organizations; the integration of HIV/AIDS education into Employee Assistance Programmes and Occupational Health and Safety programmes; and the incorporation of a clause on HIV/AIDS in one collective agreement.

The project was guided by a multipartite Project Advisory Board.



Former US Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Roy Austin addresses participants at ILO's HIV/AIDS dissemination workshop. At far right is Labour Minister, Rennie Dumas.



Tribute is paid to Carol-Ann Senah, National Project Coordinator by Behrouz Shahandeh, Programme Manager, ILO International HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Programme, ILO, Geneva

WORKERS' ACTIVITIES

Prime Minister Manning praises ILO support at launch of Cipriani College

The ILO's support for the Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperatives, Trinidad and Tobago was commended



Prime Minister Patrick Manning (centre) tours the new facilities with Labour Minister, Rennie Dumas (second from left) and David Abdullah, Chairman (second from right), Dr. Roosevelt Williams, Director, and Petal Hinkson, Executive Assistant of the College.

at the official opening of its new facilities on 18 October 2008. In their respective remarks, the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Rennie Dumas, Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, and the Director of the College, Dr. Roosevelt Williams, referred to several milestones in the

history of the College where the ILO had played an important role.

In 1966, the ILO secured the services of the first Director of the College, Mr. Max Swerdlow of the Canadian Labour College and in 1974, identified Professor Howard Whitney to develop the first cooperatives programme. In 2000, the ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean offered its library collection to be housed at the College. Further support for the library and programme development is on-going.

The opening crowns a decade of remarkable expansion at the College. In 1998 the College had 774 students; in 2008 it has over 3,000. The number of programmes has increased from 8 to 29 in the same period, including the introduction of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Labour Studies.

Antigua Workers' Union sensitizes members on EPA

Following the call made for building awareness of the implications of external trade agreements at the ILO-Caribbean Congress of Labour Round Table in June 2008, the Antigua Workers' Union took up the mantle to organize an EPA sensitization session for its members during its 42nd Annual Delegates

Conference in September 2008. Representatives from the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery, Barbados Workers' Union and the Ministry of Trade were on hand to share their perspectives.

Barbados and OECS trade unionists benefit from ILO conciliation training

On 27-30 October 2008, 17 trade unionists from Barbados and OECS countries benefited from a four-day training course in conciliation and mediation. Facilitated by Samuel Goolsarran, ILO Consultant, the course aimed to enhance the skills of trade unionists and introduced needs-based negotiation.

Sir Roy presents labour perspective at Regional Conference on National Health Financing

Sir Roy Trotman, Workers' Vice Chairperson, ILO Governing Body, was a special guest speaker at the 3rd Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives held on 2 October 2008 at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad and Tobago. Presenting on "Workers' Rights and Reform Initiatives," Sir Roy was able to share labour's perspective on social protection, particularly in the areas of NIS and safe work within the context of decent work.

New ILO Caribbean team members

The ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean is pleased to introduce the latest members of its technical team.



Mr. Rainer Francois Pritzer Senior Specialist in Social Dialogue and Labour Administration

Mr. Rainer Francois Pritzer, a national of Germany, holds a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Bonn, Germany. He joined the ILO in 1995 and from 2001 worked on social dialogue and labour administration issues. From 2005 to 2008, he served as the Senior Specialist for Social Dialogue and Labour Administration at the ILO Subregional Office in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), covering 14 African countries.



Mr. Nabeel Ahmad Goheer Specialist Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Mr. Goheer, a national of Pakistan, holds a Master's Degree in International Development Economics with specialization in enterprise development and poverty alleviation from the International University of Japan, and a Master of Philosophy in Technology and Policy with specialization in technology development policies for developing countries, from Cambridge Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Prior to joining the ILO Port of Spain Office, he served as an Enterprise Development Specialist in the Programme on Boosting Employment through Small Enterprise Development Department (EMP/SEED) at ILO Headquarters, Geneva.

New Information Resources

In December 2008, the ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean launched three new information products:

- **Caribbean Digest of Legislation on Termination of Employment;**
- **A Handbook for Peer Educators - Addressing HIV/AIDS in the workplace; and**
- **CARIBLEX - Database of Caribbean Labour Legislation,**

outputs of two ILO Projects implemented by the Office. The publications and database are available online at www.ilocarib.org.tt

Visit our new and improved website at www.ilocarib.org.tt



Among the new features of the website include a new labour legislation database, a database of ILO-trained persons, and an expanded digital library .

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