

Dickies to use plants in Mexico, Honduras to make protective gowns for health workers battling virus

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Dickies, known for its durable work clothing, is converting plants in Mexico and Honduras to produce FDA-compliant isolation gowns for U.S. hospitals and health care workers besieged by sick patients during the coronavirus pandemic.

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During recent years, Honduras had registered the second highest economic growth rates in Central America, only behind Panama. The country's GDP growth reached 4.8 percent in 2017, 3.7 percent in 2018 and 2.7 percent in 2019, above the average in Central America and well above the average in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the country's economy is expected to register a -2.3 percent growth in 2020 and 3.9 percent in 2021.

Honduras possesses multiple strengths with the potential for a faster growth and higher shared prosperity, with its strategic location, a growing industrial base, ongoing efforts to diversify its exports, and a young and growing population.

However, the country has been facing high levels of poverty and inequality. A 48.3 percent of people live in poverty in the country (2018, with updated official poverty lines) and the percentage of people living in poverty in rural areas (60.1 percent) is higher than in urban areas (38.4 percent). Inequality (GINI 50.5 in 2017, among the highest in the region and the world) had also resulted in one of the smallest middle classes in LAC (11 percent in 2015, compared with 35 percent regional average).

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