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MAY 3, 2010 - 11:08 P.M.

Malaria: Canada is to mobilize researchers to combat disease

AFP - Canada has decided to spend 225 million Canadian dollars over five years to tackle the five "great challenges" related to health in poor countries, starting with the rapid diagnosis of malaria, announced Monday the Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty.

The money, administered by the Innovation Fund for Development, is intended to encourage innovation to combat health problems, Mr. Flaherty said at a press conference presentation of "Grand Challenges Canada", a new public organization in charge of identifying such challenges and to fund researchers and organizations who will face.

The first objective - the other four will be defined later - is to encourage researchers to find tools to rapidly diagnose malaria. Such an instrument would reduce the number of deaths - 300,000 a year at present - but also would be saving hundreds of thousands of unnecessary preventive treatment.

"Grand Challenges Canada" will seek to promote scientific innovation, but also technological or social and economic, told AFP his boss, Peter Singer. On malaria, the organization will work with the foundation of Bill and Melinda Gates have already begun in this direction.



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