

Gates: \$258 million for malaria research

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The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given \$258 million in malaria research grants.

The foundation says malaria kills an estimated 2,000 African children each day and takes the lives of more than 1 million people worldwide annually.

"For far too long, malaria has been a forgotten epidemic," said Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, co-founder of the Gates Foundation. He called it "a disgrace that the world has allowed malaria deaths to double in the last 20 years."

The Seattle-based foundation -- the world's largest philanthropic foundation -- will soon spend more money than the U.S. government for malaria research.

The largest grant, for \$107.6 million, was awarded the Seattle-based PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative to work with GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals to complete testing and licensing of the most advanced malaria-vaccine candidate. A trial last year in Mozambique found the vaccine reduced severe malaria by 58 percent in children ages 1 to 4.

The Gates Foundation also awarded \$100 million to the Geneva-based Medicines for Malaria Venture to develop new treatments; and \$50.7 million to the Innovative Vector Control Consortium to develop improved insecticides and other mosquito-control methods.

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