

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Health Canada contribute jointly to the worldwide fight against tuberculosis and malaria. CIDA has provided funding for research on malaria prevention using insecticide-treated bed-nets, including contributions to the International Development Research Centre of \$1.4 million. CIDA also funds the principal organizations addressing the problem of malaria including the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the World Bank, and the UN Development Program/WHO/World Bank Special Program on Research on Tropical Diseases.

HIV/AIDS remains a serious concern. Research is ongoing on many fronts, with progress in some areas. Much of the international response to HIV/AIDS is co-ordinated through UNAIDS, a UN program involving various UN agencies, WHO and the World Bank. UNAIDS provides international best practices and critical technical support as well as some financial assistance to country programs.

Canada supports the role of WHO as the lead co-ordinator of international work on emerging infectious diseases. Canada is working with the organization to develop a modern, effective global disease-surveillance system that gives immediate, practical information on outbreaks, trends and control methods. Given the link between HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, efforts are being co-ordinated across diseases.

CIDA has contributed over \$135 million to the international fight against HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, including some \$13 million annually from 1990 to 1995. This increased to more than \$16 million per year in 1996-97. In 1997-98, CIDA contributed \$3.4 million to the UNAIDS program and in 1998-99 will contribute an additional \$3.4 million. CIDA also directly supports research, including trials of new, relatively inexpensive measures, to reduce mother-infant HIV transmission.

During the 1993-1998 funding period, the Canadian government, through Health Canada, allocated \$203.5 million to Canada's National AIDS Strategy, or \$40.7 million annually. On December 1, 1997, the Minister of Health announced the allocation of another \$211 million, or \$42.2 million annually, effective April 1, 1998, to renew the Canadian HIV/AIDS Strategy for a further five years (1998-2003). The renewed strategy will assist Canadians living with HIV, with more emphasis on marginalized youth and other at-risk populations, and support further research.