

Sanofi rolls out malaria drug

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French drugmaker Sanofi said on Tuesday it had delivered the first large-scale batches of an anti-malarial drug made using semi-synthetic artemisinin, a key ingredient usually derived from the sweet wormwood plant. Shipping the treatment to six malaria-endemic countries in Africa marks a new phase in the fight against the disease and will reduce reliance on volatile supplies of the Chinese medicinal plant. Both the botanical supply of sweet wormwood and the price of artemisinin can fluctuate widely, leading to periodic shortages. REUTERS

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