



Patient zero

Clip from 'This World, Outbreak: The Truth About Ebola'

NARRATOR:

This is Ebola ground zero. In December 2013, the children of Meliandou village discovered hundreds of bats nesting in a hollow tree. Bats are thought to carry the deadly virus.

CHILDREN [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:

We lit a fire and they fell from the top of the tree. We filled our bags with bats. Then we ate them.

INTERVIEWER [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:

At that time had anybody died?

CHILDREN [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:

No. It hadn't started yet.

ETIENNE OUAMOUNO [ENGLISH TRANSLATION]:

At first I thought it was witchcraft. I thought my family had been cursed.

My son began to feel unwell at the end of December. He had a fever, his body was hot. He was shivering. After two days he got worse. He got diarrhoea and was refusing to eat. Then he passed away.

NARRATOR:

At the time, nobody knew what killed Emile Ouamouno, but he is now considered to be Patient Zero of the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

His sister died nine days later. Then his mother fell ill – she was seven months pregnant.