



Hospital becomes 'death trap'

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

NARRATOR:

The government then made a decision that would cost many lives. They decided to treat Ebola victims at the state hospital in the town of Kenema, which already had a ward for Lassa fever – a disease similar to Ebola but less infectious.

The director of the clinic, Dr Sheik Humarr Khan, was a world expert in Lassa fever and one of Sierra Leone's top medics.

DR SHEIK HUMARR KHAN:

It's safe to go in there because I know all things are in place to protect myself. The infection control is perfectly in place.

NARRATOR:

But within days, his hospital was overrun with Ebola victims. They infected other patients. Then the nurses started to die.

JOSEPHINE SELLU:

If you go to the morgue, you see dead bodies, 15, 16, 17, 18 dead bodies, all in body bags. Then I start to wonder, 'What is happening? Maybe this is the end of the world. Maybe everybody's going to die'.

NARRATOR:

Far from containing the outbreak, the hospital was helping to spread it. Will Pooley, a British nurse, volunteered to work on the Ebola ward. He was shocked by what he found.

WILLIAM POOLEY:

When a patient arrived, they'd walk in past these corpses that would be piling up across the path and sometimes next to the path. They were smelling quite bad until the burial team came – and it might take days.

I was constantly gobsmacked that this wasn't a bigger deal. Like, people weren't... You know, that this wasn't being shouted about.