



## Patients arrive at first field hospital

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

*NARRATOR:*

Ebola was unknown in West Africa. Every previous outbreak had happened thousands of miles away. The government of Guinea – one of the poorest countries in the world – had no idea how to respond. But the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, MSF, has decades of experience with Ebola.

Within 48 hours, they set up a field hospital in the town of Gueckedou, the epicentre of the outbreak. The first patients began to arrive.

*DR HILDE DE CLERCK:*

Most of those cases came from different villages or different areas in the city of Gueckedou. That's a very bad sign, because it means that you don't have just one cluster or one family or one village that is hit, it means that it's already spread out.

*NARRATOR:*

Past outbreaks had shown that the key to stopping Ebola is to isolate the sick, monitor anyone who had contact with the infected, and safely bury the dead. This complex operation now needed a level of manpower and coordination far beyond the resources of MSF.

*DR HILDE DE CLERCK:*

And I remember my headquarters asked me, like, 'What do you think? Is it five villages, ten villages, 15 villages, or more?' I remember I said, 'If I have to choose between those three options, I do believe it's 15 or more'. Then I said, like, 'I think we have a big problem'.