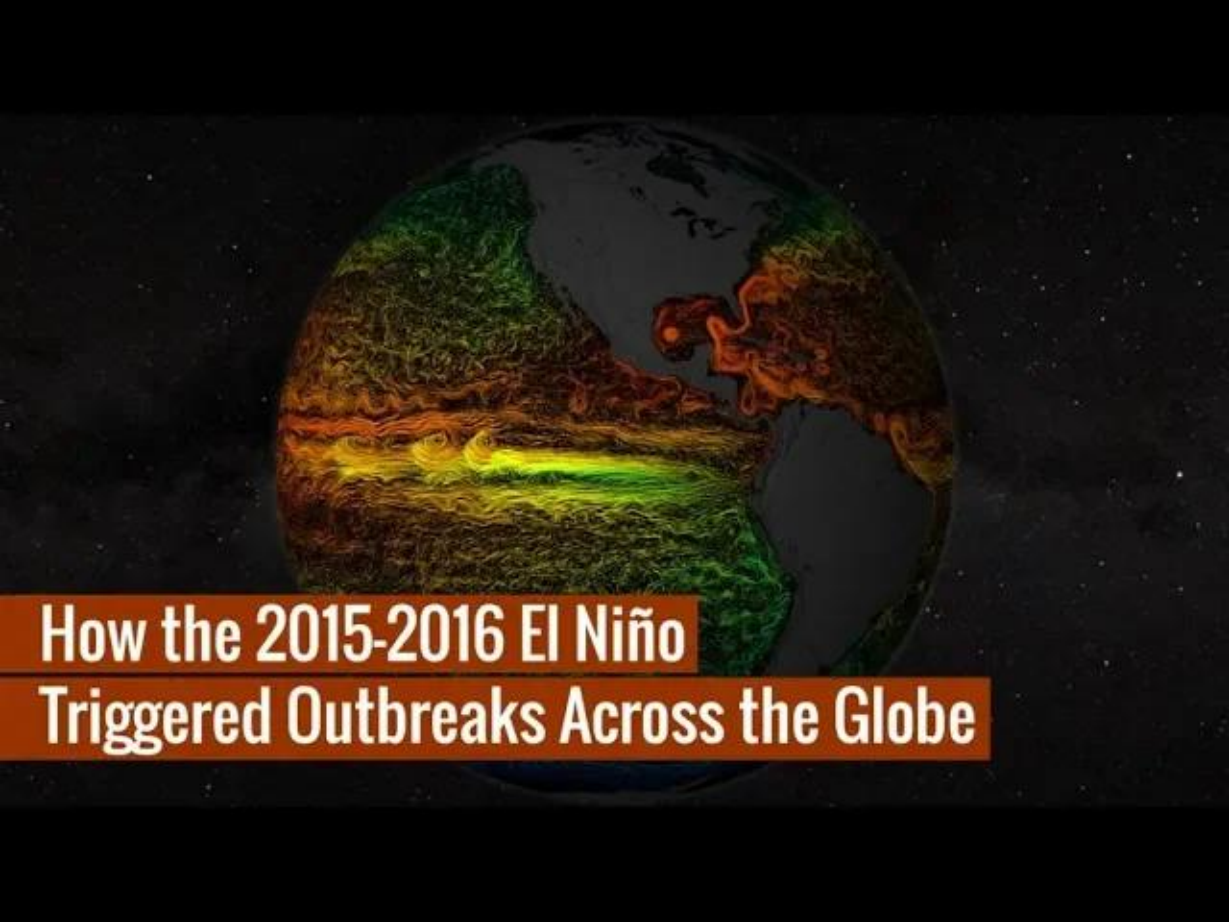
How the 2015-2016 El Niño
Triggered Outbreaks Across the Globe

1
00:00:01,220 --> 00:00:05,640
In 2015, a prolific outbreak of mosquito-borne Dengue Fever

2
00:00:05,640 --> 00:00:12,960
struck Southeast Asia. In fact, something was causing outbreaks to pop up all over the world.

3
00:00:12,960 --> 00:00:15,270
So, what happened?

4
00:00:15,270 --> 00:00:18,520
Two to three months earlier, the ocean water in the equatorial

5
00:00:18,520 --> 00:00:22,490
Pacific began to dramatically warm-up resulting in a cascading series

6
00:00:22,490 --> 00:00:26,560
of events that eventually lead to disease outbreaks worldwide.

7
00:00:26,560 --> 00:00:30,750
This warming event is commonly known as El Nino.

8
00:00:32,080 --> 00:00:35,550
The same El Nino that causes heavy rainfall in some parts of the world

9
00:00:35,550 --> 00:00:44,040
and droughts in others, the 2015-2016 El Nino was the strongest seen in the last 50 years.

10
00:00:44,040 --> 00:00:45,350
Here’s what happened:

11
00:00:45,350 --> 00:00:50,790
The El Nino-Southern Oscillation began showing signs of warming in early 2015.

12
00:00:50,790 --> 00:00:59,310
That led to changes in rainfall worldwide which directly impacted land surface temperatures across all continen

13
00:00:59,310 --> 00:01:04,250

In the case of Southeast Asia, the region actually got less than average rain

14
00:01:04,250 --> 00:01:09,630
which caused the surface of the land to heat up and therefore produce drier conditions.

15
00:01:09,630 --> 00:01:15,860
That drew mosquitoes into populated, urban areas containing open water they needed for laying eggs.

16
00:01:15,860 --> 00:01:21,730
As the air warmed, mosquitoes grew hungrier and reached sexual maturity faster

17
00:01:21,730 --> 00:01:24,430
…which meant more mosquito bites.

18
00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:31,560
The purple columns represent reported incidents of Dengue Fever.

19
00:01:31,560 --> 00:01:37,050
Mosquito-borne epidemics have a lag time of two to three months following these weather changes

20
00:01:37,050 --> 00:01:43,260
which is why the Dengue Amplification Period kicks in several months after land temperature begins heating up

21
00:01:43,260 --> 00:01:45,350
The good news?

22
00:01:45,350 --> 00:01:51,000
Seasonal forecasts are an early warning system with the real potential to save lives.