TRANSCRIPTION
0:00) So I'm Jacob Granger, I'm Emergency Coordinator for Doctors Without Borders, (0:06) actually based in Deir el-Bala, Gaza. What we have from our teams up in Gaza City that are still (0:16) operating in two hospitals and two clinics, and also doing some water distribution, is that (0:24) there's less and less humanitarian actors. So this is the case because of the ongoing (0:31) military operation over there, and the pressure that the Israeli government is pushing to have (0:38) both the population but also the humanitarian actors to stop being in Gaza City. So Gaza City, (0:46) one month ago, was estimated one million inhabitants. All these people in really (0:53) poor conditions. So there was the rest of the lack of access to food, (1:02) there's also a lack of access to water and to basic medical needs. And in these conditions, (1:09) it's very difficult for the people over there to manage to go south to live in Gaza City. (1:16) Especially in such high numbers, and given the fact that there's no facilities, there's no (1:23) structure, there's not enough space permitting to these people to go south. So since over one week, (1:30) we observed a shift in the intensity of the strikes being done by Israeli forces over there, (1:39) as well as the advancement of ground forces. Meaning that our team over there (1:50) see new injuries, new casualties, trauma cases, because of Israeli forces operations. (2:00) And then we see also the displacement. It's really difficult to estimate the number of people that (2:06) left Gaza City to go down south. But a lot of them cannot leave Gaza City, because they don't (2:14) have a shelter in the south. So they have the choice between keeping a shelter for them and (2:23) their family, to have a tent, to have a part of a building, overly crowded most of the time, (2:31) or to end to face the military operations from Israeli forces, or to leave all their items (2:40) up north and try to go south and to find a piece of land. Now, we must understand that the (2:47) so-called humanitarian zone that Israeli authorities have decreed being a little bit (2:56) more south in Khan Yunis would be around 42 square kilometers. So they expect maybe (3:06) above 2 million people to be in 42 square kilometers. In a matter of comparison, (3:13) you can take Manhattan. Manhattan is about 58 square kilometers for 1.6 million inhabitants.(3:22) And it's really easy for everyone to see the difference between the Gaza Strip today (3:26) and Manhattan. No building left in the Gaza Strip, very little ones, and most of the people in tents (3:35) overcrowded, without also the Israeli authorities letting sufficient shelter tents going inside the (3:44) Gaza Strip. To sum up, right now, it is an impossible choice for the population of Gaza City (3:55) between having a shelter and facing increased military operation in Gaza City, or leaving (4:04) everything behind and trying to go south, where there's no space, and also it costs a lot of money.(4:12) So over 70% of the population of Gaza has no regular income. Access to money, access to cash, (4:21) is really difficult. And to move, you need thousands of American dollars. The main needs (4:30) that MSF are seeing today are overwhelming. Food, water, medical services. So in the one (4:43) clinic that we still have today operating, we are seeing more and more acute cases, fresh wounds, (4:52) open wounds than before. Al-Shifa Hospital, the biggest still functioning hospital in the north, (5:01) has a bed occupancy rate of 250%. And access to medical supplies is also really, really complicated (5:13) and not enough to provide critical life-saving medical services to the population over there. (5:21) In addition, the access to drinkable water is more and more restricted, with more and more (5:28) population not able to have the basic need for drinkable water. The most basic need from (5:41) everyone in the Gaza Strip is safety. And there's no safe space in the Gaza Strip as of today. So (5:50) be it in the north, be it in the south, we need safety. We need a stop of Israeli military (5:58) activities. So MSF is trying to respond to the needs at its best capacity, which is very limited. (6:09) So we are seeing an increase of needs because of the lack of access for humanitarian actors (6:16) in Gaza City. And for now, we are continuing our activities with water tracking, supporting (6:21) two hospitals and having two clinics, primary health care and wound care physiotherapy. (6:31) So we must understand now that operating in Gaza City is extremely dangerous because of the lack (6:40) of security guarantees given by the Israeli government. So as of today, I have colleagues, (6:47) international colleagues, Gazan colleagues, risking their lives every day to provide water (6:54) and health services, critical health services to the population of Gaza City. And we are demanding (7:03) to the international community and also to the Israeli government to guarantee access (7:13) to humanitarian actors, to humanitarian aid overall in the Gaza Strip and in particular (7:21) in Gaza City. Humanitarian items going inside the Gaza Strip. So for now, the only obstacle (7:30) to have humanitarian aid entering Gaza City is the Israeli government. There is food (7:39) 50 kilometers away from each point of the Gaza Strip. There is also a capacity for humanitarian (7:48) actors to deliver if this obstacle are alleviated. So MSF will remain in the Gaza Strip as long as (7:58) possible. And MSF will remain in Gaza City as long as possible. The security situation being (8:05) so volatile and dangerous over there, we are assessing hour after hour if we can continue (8:12) to operate over there. We need to continue to have hospitals and clinics operating over there. We (8:28) as long as possible, we will keep our activities over there.