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## **Hospitals** in the UAE hire more, pay more

### DUBAI

**BY MANOJ NAIR Business Editor** 

ecruitment firms have seen a spike in the need for health care specialists, counsellors and psychologists in the UAE, according to industry sources. This is because of a shortage of those skill sets in the region, and also evidenced by an increase in new health care spending for the next set of facilities that it requires.

Moreover, with mandatory health insurance for residents in the Northern Emirates starting in 2025, aside from norms already in place in the other emirates, a significant shift from government to private sector health care is expected, industry sources reveal.

With the UAE health care sector expected to record sizeable increases, nurses' salaries too appear to have risen, and those in counselling services can command much better packages than what they could, experts note. As a result, health care organisations are offering competitive salary packages to attract and retain talent, with the emergence of new health care projects expected to cater to the UAE's increasing demand for quality health care.

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# 250,000 Palestinians hit by Israel's new evacuation order

80% OF GAZANS NOW DISPLACED, SAYS UN HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR

GENEVA

he UN agency supporting Palestinian estimated refugees yesterday that a quarter of a million people had been impacted since Israel's army issued a new evacuation order for parts of southern Gaza a day earlier.

"We've seen people moving, families moving, people starting to pack up their belongings and try to leave this area," UN-RWA spokeswoman Louise Wateridge told reporters in Geneva via video-link from Gaza.

The agency "estimates that around 250,000 people have been impacted by these orders", she said, adding: "We expect these numbers to grow".

Her comments came after the Israeli army on Monday issued a new evacuation order for parts of Khan Younis and Rafah in southern Gaza.

### Mass displacement

"We expect that almost all of these people will move from this area," she said, adding that the agency hoped to get a better idea of the numbers who have physically left. Monday's evacuation order followed mass displacement from large parts of Rafah that began with a similar order nearly two months ago, which signalled the start of a longfeared Israeli ground offensive.



Displaced Palestinians from areas in east Khan Younis arrive to the city as they flee after the Israeli army issued a new evacuation order for parts of the city and Rafah, yesterday.

Meanwhile, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Gaza said yesterday that 1.9 million people - 80 per cent of the territory's population — were now displaced in the territory, adding she was "deeply concerned" by reports of new evacuation orders for Khan Younis.

"Over 1 million people have been displaced once again, desperately seeking shelter and safety (and) 1.9 million people are now displaced across Gaza... I'm deeply concerned about reports of new evacuation orders issued in the area of Khan Younis," Sigrid Kaag told

the UN Security Council. Kaag said the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt should be re-opened, and also pleaded with the international community to do more to fund relief efforts.

-AFP**SEE ALSO P9** 

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