

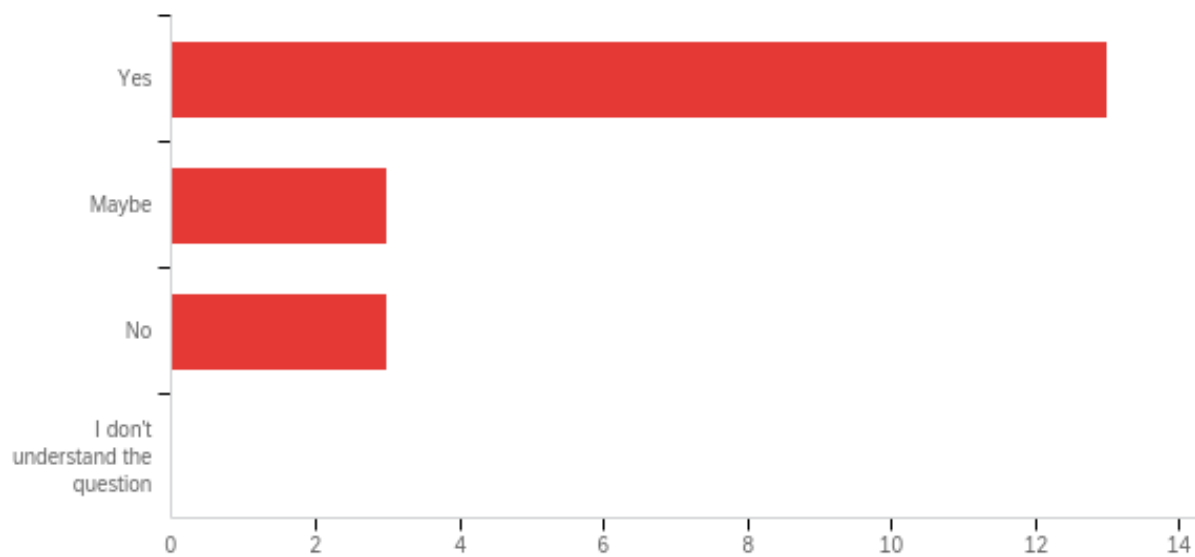
Survey of UCC Staff September 2022

Unfolding famine in Horn of Africa - thoughts of UCC staff

Report

September 21st 2022, 5:59 am MDT

Q1 - Does a university such as UCC have a role to play with regard to a catastrophe such as famine and/or war in the Horn of Africa?



| # | Field | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std Deviation | Variance | Count |
|---|---|---------|---------|------|---------------|----------|-------|
| 1 | Does a university such as UCC have a role to play with regard to a catastrophe such as famine and/or war in the Horn of Africa? | 1.00 | 3.00 | 1.47 | 0.75 | 0.57 | 19 |

| # | Answer | % | Count |
|---|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Yes | 68.42% | 13 |
| 2 | Maybe | 15.79% | 3 |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|----|
| 3 | No | 15.79% | 3 |
| 5 | I don't understand the question | 0.00% | 0 |
| | Total | 100% | 19 |

Q2 - If you answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question above, please explain what you think that role is.

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practical help and asking why it happened

lobbying, deployment of medical and specialist personnel, raising awareness

I think we have multiple roles, one in highlighting the impact of climate change on situations like the Horn of Africa through sustainability efforts that must put global citizenship at the forefront. Secondly, we need to assist aid efforts (imperfect as they are, they are life-saving at this point), and thirdly, we need to send solidarity in the same way we have for Ukraine. One person is dying every 38 seconds (to my knowledge) in the Horn of Africa, yet we are silent.

I think that our institution is already conducting valuable research, but that we should perhaps consider our ability to fundraise and heighten awareness amongst students and the general public too. Whilst the general public might be a little weary of hearing about climate change, I think this summer's disastrous events globally are helping to heighten awareness of how urgent it is. We need to foster those conversations as much as possible, and highlight the positive actions we can all take.

It is difficult to be specific, but fund-raising is an obvious answer. Some intervention at political level, raising awareness amongst the student and staff body? We are a large community, and could surely use this to highlight this issue.

Research, inclusion in teaching content

Increasing awareness through media through student and staff bodies, focusing research in areas of good production, climate change etc

Educating staff and students about the crisis, and organising to demand an end to African countries having to pay debts to their former colonisers.

To influence Governments and policy makers to create solutions to hunger/famine.

Assisting and supporting the Irish Aid in the region

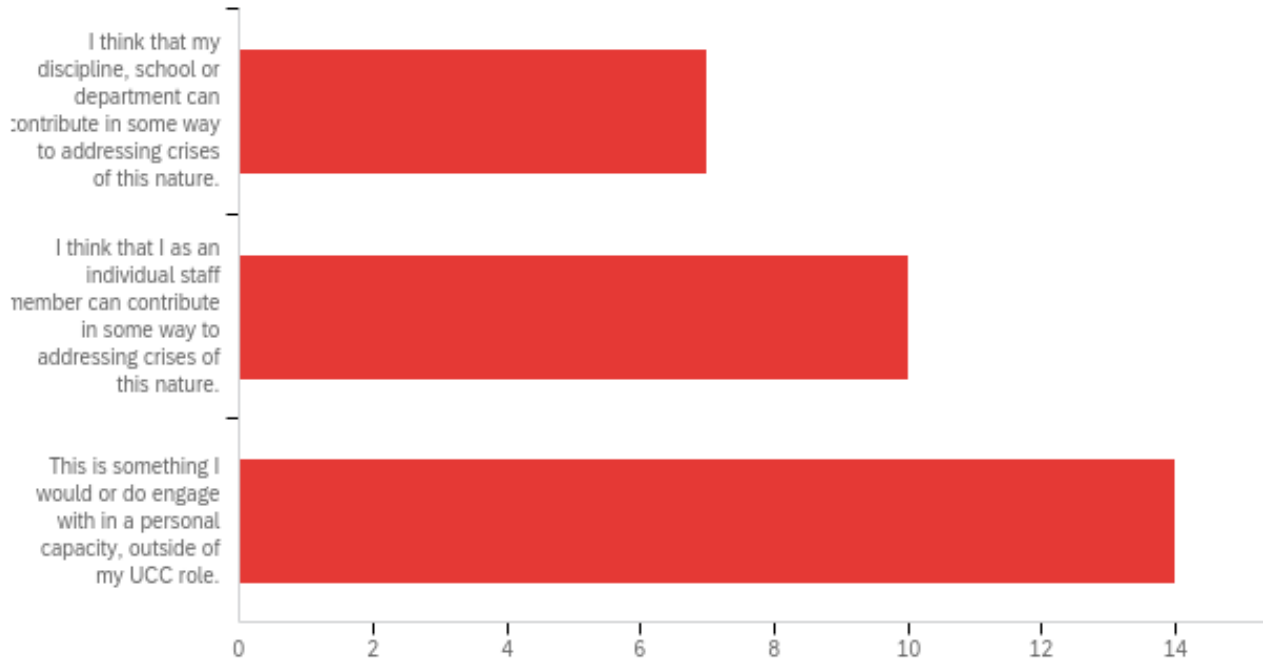
If a university comprises of the people in that university then it has a role through its people as all organisations do. However, as a privileged element in society it has a greater responsibility. This includes the direct provision of financial aid to NGOs helping in the region. Educating our students about the famine and its causes and implications. Inspiring students to look beyond their career needs and prospects to engage them with the world - students in STEM, health, business, and humanities. Providing sanctuary for scholars from the affected region. Providing experts for media engagement to highlight the catastrophe. We had the Irish famine commemoration on campus before the pandemic. Why don't we have a permanent famine memorial of all famines so that people can see the those suffering now are us. Provide bursaries for health and engineering academics and students who wish to help in the region.

In the same way it has played a role in other crises, the most recent of which is the war in Ukraine. The role can take diverse forms, such as raising awareness about the issue both formally (e.g. curricula, scholarships for students from affected areas) and informally (e.g. public lectures, calls for donations)

Showing the next generation, the youth being educated, that everyone has a role to play. Fundraising, research, volunteer programmes

Advocacy e.g. op-ed's, outreach; reseach and teaching (e.g. Food Security, Africa)

Q3 - Please tick if you think one or both of these apply for you.



| # | Answer | % | Count |
|---|--|--------|-------|
| 1 | I think that my discipline, school or department can contribute in some way to addressing crises of this nature. | 22.58% | 7 |
| 2 | I think that I as an individual staff member can contribute in some way to addressing crises of this nature. | 32.26% | 10 |
| 3 | This is something I would or do engage with in a personal capacity, outside of my UCC role. | 45.16% | 14 |
| | Total | 100% | 31 |

Q4 - What suggestions do you have, big or small, for a university such as UCC, which might help to respond to global challenges of this nature. These might be short, medium or long term suggestions. Please name work already in progress which address global challenges of this nature or ideas you have which you would like to see happening at UCC.

What suggestions do you have, big or small, for a university such as UCC, which might help to respond to global challenges of this nature. These might be short, medium or long term suggestions. Please name work already in progress which address global challenges of this nature or ideas you have which you would like to see happening at UCC.

I am involved in supporting the Faith Angels Ministry, a registered Charity Organisation located in Hamurwa Sub County - Rubanda district, Uganda (see <http://www.faithangelsministryafrica.org/about.html>). UCC may want to develop an Engaging Africa Initiative similar as done by St. Lawrence University, see: <https://www.stlawu.edu/offices/african-studies/engaging-africa-initiative>

Short term - fly lags of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and other impacted countries. Have fundraising efforts and support aid agencies responding to the situations. Bring in global citizenship to Sustainable university goals - examine the different responses to Ukraine and Horn of Africa - why is that? Why are we so passive in the face of such a human tragedy.

An on-campus fund raising campaign when students return. This would help to raise awareness of this issue, as well as garnering some financial contribution. Maybe an inter-university initiative, where the higher education community across Ireland comes together to raise money, but also to indicate, collectively, that this level of catastrophe cannot be allowed to happen.

Bringing decolonised knowledge to the fore; changing structures so that schools such as CUBS have to enact commerce with a conscience, and stop churning out graduates to be employed in funds that support global climate destruction.

At an individual level, I would donate to a charitable organisation that can provide assistance on the ground in Kenya/Ethiopia. As a staff member, I think reaching out to the international students from Africa and asking them how we can help their country, through education other other ways. Another idea is for UCC to liaise with Irish Embassies located in Africa or African Diplomats based here in Ireland to highlight UCCs concerns and ask what can be done to help.

UCC academics should stop trying to profit and build their careers upon misfortunes in other countries.

Raise Funds by organising a payroll deduction opportunity for staff to give regularly to this cause.

-Funding research that aims to understand the causes of and offer solutions to these issues. -Offering Scholarships to students from affected areas, particularly in subject areas that can help solve these global challenges. - Developing curricula that engage in critical investigations of these issues and enhance students' civic engagement. Students are the future leaders, decision makers and citizens of the world. -Donations for affected regions.

CGD does good work with the seminar series, but engagement could be much greater. More inter-disciplinary connection would also help, but needs a push from higher levels (inc. President, VP Research etc.)