

Annex 2: research question one; what are religious authorities communicating on COVID-19 risk through websites in Uganda? (Thematic analysis)		
Excerpts or quotes, statement ID	Code	Themes
"COVID-19, outbreak that started in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, has spread to many countries, including some in East Africa" K, "this virus, which is said to have mutated from animal corona virus and crossed into humans..." M1	Origin	COVID-19 disease and it's management
"There is great danger in our midst!!!!!!" B, "an invisible COVID-19 has more or less shut down the whole world!" D1, "the entire world is hit by the COVID-19 pandemic" D2, "..this common enemy, corona virus pandemic" F1, "the current dark moment of the COVID-19 pandemic!" H3, "a submicroscopic pathogen (virus) invisible to our naked eyes" J2, "during the storm of COVID-19" J2, "the coronavirus pandemic battle" J4, "coronavirus can survive up to 8-10 hours on porous surfaces such as paper, untreated wood, cardboard, sponge, and fabric, and a little longer on non-porous surfaces such as glass, plastic, metal, and varnished wood" K, "a public health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic" L5, "corona virus is a new illness that affects that lungs and airway" M1, "COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern" M3, "deadly coronavirus COVID-19" N1, "we are faced with many big stones to roll, COVID just being the biggest and immediate one for now" N3, "this COVID-19 scourge" N4	Viral and disease descriptions	
"Corona virus which spreads so fast" A1, "corona virus does not discriminate whether religion, education level, age, tribe, sex, colour..." B, "the novel coronavirus is very infectious" K, "the corona virus that is sweeping across the world, is a pandemic" O	Infectiousness	
"Uganda has not yet registered any case" A1, "not yet entered the general population of Uganda" C1, "on 20th March, our first confirmed coronavirus case was reported. From then to today....we have hit the 200 mark!!" J5, "globally, as of today, there are about 200,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus with more than 8,000 deaths. More than one hundred forty (140) countries are already affected. In Africa , cases have been confirmed in 28 countries" K, "as of 26th March, 2020, there were 462,684 confirmed cases and 20,834 deaths globally. In Africa, there are more than 600 confirmed cases and" M2, "rate at which people die, and the way they die are both a shock to the world" A2, "it is a serious pandemic which has claimed millions of lives" B, "we have not yet had a recorded death due to the pandemic" J3, "the mortality from coronavirus is.....2-3%" K, "there 109,577 confirmed cases with 3,993 new infections and 3809 deaths globally.....as of March, 9th 2020.....most hit countries are; Italy, South Korea, France, China, Germany and Spain. Uganda has no confirmed case of COVID-19" M1, "report cases of people with the following signs to the authorities" B, "out of all of East Africa, Uganda has the fewest confirmed cases and no deaths" L4	Epidemiology	
"The virus.....can spread directly or indirectly from one person to another through the mucosal membranes of the nose, mouth and eyes, then spreading down to the throat, airways and lungs.....may contaminate the hand when one touches any surface already contaminated by the virus. Virus is spread essentially through droplets which may come out of the nose or mouth and enter the mouth, nose or eyes of other people who are close to the infected person" K, "person to person spread.....through mucus or fluids from an infected person when they cough or sneeze through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects like door knobs, hankies used by infected persons, chairs, metallic surfaces" M1	Mode of transmission	
"A high temperature of at least 38 degrees, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, other flu-like symptoms like running nose, sneezing and body weakness" M1, "with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose" N2	Signs and symptoms	
"Currently, there is no antiviral drug that is confirmed to directly act against COVID-19.....supportive treatment in our facilities may not be as good as in developed countries" K, "this virus..... has no cure so far...There is currently no vaccine" M1	Treatment	
"do what the medics tell you adhere to public health guidelines being given by our health authorities" A1, "we only follow the directives of the legitimate civil and medical authorities" H1, "accord specific slots to medical personnel during services...to educate congregants on how they can stay safe" M1, "leaders should frequently caution congregants to stay vigilant and adhere to preventive measures and guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health" M1, "stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider. If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early" N2	Healthcare advice	Adherence to guidelines

<p>"I thank you for honoring his excellency's directives in this season of COVID-19 and the government of Uganda especially from the ministry of health" A3, "we agreed to uphold the presidential and health ministry directives" B, "do as the president and the ministry of health have advised. Do not ignore their good advice. We should not put the Lord our God to the test by neglecting what our elders have advised us to do" C1, "we encourage all Ugandans to obey the president's directives so together we can defeat COVID-19" C3, "let us embrace the directives given for curbing the spreading of this disease" F1, "we can only wait for what the powers that be, are going to tell us next" J5, "the president of Uganda, announced the decision of the government to close down all public religious gatherings....He did this as a father who advise s his children we stand with His Excellency in this decision" L2, "we must willingly receive it [extension of ban on public transportation] so we can promote life" L4, "we urge all Ugandans to adhere to these guidelines and directives" M3, "follow the government directive since its more or less a worldwide ban and is for their well-being" O</p>	<p>Government directives</p>	
<p>"Adhere to the guidelines given by our civil and religious leaders" J2, "we have drafted supplementary guidelines that are anchored within the scripture for our religious institutions to adhere to" M1</p>	<p>Religious authority guidelines</p>	
<p>"No church building should be opened" B, "all church services.....are suspended with effect from today 19th March 2020 until further notice.....Cells with a membership above 10 people are to be split into two or more" C2, "our failure to gather as a communitybecause of COVID-19 we are not congregating" D1, "to suspend public celebrations of the solemnity of the Uganda martyrs' day at Namugongo", "all public masses and church programs are suspended until further notice" G, "ban on religious gatherings.....all schools. [including our seminaries] to close" K, "large public gatherings are still not allowed.....we will still be observing "worship from home" we will also celebrate martyrs day at home. It is not possible for us to gather at Namugongo.....scientific weddings are also real Christian weddings [with 5 witnesses and a priest]so, I want to encourage those who have delayed getting married to consider a scientific, Christian wedding" L4</p>	<p>mass gathering cancellations</p>	<p>Health protective and health promoting behaviours</p>
<p>"Wash hands" A1, "every home and offices must improvise hand washing facilities" B, "wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds...If soap and water are not available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.....After handling money, wash your hands thoroughly those involved in a baptism should thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water. All clergy involved in Holy communion must wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water....Christians receiving Holy Communion should use hand sanitizer. Churches must provide hand-washing stations near toilets/latrines with soap and water" C1, "remember to wash your hands with water and a soap or use recommended hand sanitizers" C2, "we advise the priests,to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water before and after liturgical celebrations. Where possible, provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers... at the entrance of the church recommended sanitizer should have above 60% alcohol" K, "mobilize volunteers at churches and mosques to champion proper hygiene like handwashing for congregants....Ensure that all religious institutions have chlorinated water, soap and sanitizers and sensitize on their use" M1, "clean hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water" N1</p>	<p>Hand hygiene</p>	
<p>"Keep two metres between you and care-givers.....If you are put under self-quarantine, please take it seriously and do what you are told to do For all public gatherings...Try to keep a distance of two metres between you and other people" C1, "prompted to adopt new norms like social distancing"D2, "no joy of sitting or standing close to a brother or a sister in Christ.....whereby physical distance is a necessary good solitude and loneliness seem to grant better security than community and company" F2, "For the time being there is no physical closeness with one another" H1, "we have been separated physically" H5, "the common good must be given first place" J1, "before you act, please consider the others!!!! May be you do not fear the virus. What about those you may bring it back to from wherever you will have picked it up!! Oh! You say you are strong but have you considered your neighbor who may not be as strong as you are?" J4, "any person arriving in Uganda will have to undergo self-quarantine for 14 days.....all persons....who may have symptoms.should avoid going to public gatherings....we urge our clergy.....to refrain from conducting.....crusades, workshops and retreats of more than 10 people" K, "home cells, are the ideal place for Sunday worship....Some cells may need to sub-divide so they are no more than 10 people, keeping at least one metre of distance between you and others" L2, "additional two-week extension of the shutdown of transportation. We have already been fully locked down for five weeks" L4, "religious leaders should avoid touching congregants when blessing them, baptizing, officiating marriages among others" M1, "with an increase in the number of infected Ugandans, the president was recently compelled to close markets selling non-food items, and banned public transport" M2, "avoid close contact (1 meter or 3 feet) with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms" N1, "avoid places of congestion.....president Yoweri Museveni, restricted burials and weddings to 10 people" O, "anyone with coronavirus symptoms must seek medical attention or self-quarantine" C2</p>	<p>Social distancing</p>	
<p>"If you visit the sick, wear appropriate protective clothing keep at least two metres of distance" C1, "we also appeal to the government to increase the supply of face masks, gloves, and other protective gear to all the healthcare workers around the country. We need them to stay healthy so they can care for us" C3, "his excellency, the president of Uganda added the requirement of wearing a facemask in public to the existing guidelines" L4, "in the event that you are visiting those sick with the virus, ensure that you use protective wear like mouth and nose masks" M1</p>	<p>Wearing PPE</p>	

<p>"Thank you for being patient in your homes and your families" A3, "stay home, stay safe from COVID-19" A4, "parents now that children are back at home..... restrict them from unnecessary movements and" B, "if you develop cough or flu, stay home from work, school, and church. Do not use public transport..." C1, "we are advised by our civil leadership to stay home and stay safe" H2, "if you're sick, please stay home" L2, "children to stay at home and not move around" O</p>	<p>Stay home</p>	
<p>"Avoid handshakes and hugging" A1, "avoid Handshakes and hugs" B, "do not shake hands or hug people. Greet with your elbows or waving.....During greetings and the passing of the peace, all Christians should avoid shaking hands or hugging and greet by waving" C1, "suspend all handshakes and hugs" K, "observing appropriate behaviours of not shaking hands or hugging" L2, "avoid hugging and shaking hands" M1</p>	<p>Non-contact greeting</p>	
<p>"Do not touch your face – your eyes, nose, or mouth – with your hands" C1, "avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth" N2, "warned against touching faces.....since the virus can only enter through the eyes, nose and mouth" O</p>	<p>Do not touch the face</p>	
<p>"Make sure the place where you are recovering is regularly cleaned, including toilets, bath rooms, and other surfaces you may touch, daily clean surfaces you touch with your hands – water taps, door handles, light switches, cell phones" C1</p>	<p>Environmental hygiene</p>	
<p>"Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or flexed elbow" N1, "practice respiratory hygiene" N2</p>	<p>Cough etiquette</p>	
<p>"The conference president emphasized a balanced diet, avoiding oils and fatty flesh a with sugary foods but encouraged the use of fruits, cereals, greens and a vegetarian diet which helps to boost the immune system" O</p>	<p>Health promotion</p>	
<p>"Before you forward something, please verify whether or not it is true. Do not circulate gossip or fake news" C3, "refrain from spreading misinformation or contradicting messages which may cause unnecessary panic" H1, "the "global misinformation pandemic" spreading as rapidly as the coronavirus itself...Everybody seems to be an expert. Some awoken hopes whereas others throw people into a state of hopelessness. Some theories seem not to be incompatible with neither science nor faith" H4, "the truth has suffered in public discourse.....the post-truth erawe need to pay attention to science and medicine and less attention to opinion-makers and rumours. Why should anyone want to take advantage of others by spreading untruthful information about such a dangerous virus?" J1, "avoid spreading unsubstantiated information or rumours. Always cross-check any information about coronavirus with health experts, ministry of health, and the website of World Health Organization" K, "beware of false information and remedies. Ensure that all faith-based media houses report approved information on the COVID-19" M1</p>	<p>Guard against (refrain from) misinformation</p>	
<p>"The cathedral will post sermons on all our social media platforms....We encourage you to follow and share lunch hour will continue to live stream Sunday services are also to be live streamed on all our social media platforms" C2, "celebrations will be broadcast on various social and electronic media platforms" D2, "sermons, homilies and reflections are also going to be live-streamed or posted on the archdiocese's social media platforms" E, "we stream these masses live on Facebook, YouTube and twitter every morning" H2, "I will be recording a daily devotion to be circulated on social media" L2, "many congregations, are offering live-stream services every Sunday through Facebook and/or YouTube. Save your MBs to watch" L4, "pastors and evangelists to keep in close contact with the households on phone and social media in" O</p>	<p>Social media use</p>	
<p>"Use mega phones to serve as community radios" B, "we are especially grateful for them availing airtime on radio and TV for the church to successfully offer "worship from home"" C3, "the church will... broadcast mass on various television stations....Radio Maria and Radio Sapientia are already broadcasting daily masses" E, "the Diocese of Northwest resolved to have online church services using one of the best radio stations in the country" I, "we encourage all Catholic radio stations to relay and broadcast holy mass on Sundays and week days" K, "we are asking all bishops to develop "Radio Church," and asking all radio stations to collaborate with the church.....provide airtime on Sunday mornings to broadcast local language worship services, to link with local TV stations for ways to broadcast a local language Sunday service through television" L2, "we sincerely appreciate radio and TV stations, for availing airtime to broadcast worship services. I encourage Bishops and clergy to organize radio call-in programmes" L4, "the church radio was tasked with holding a full church service on radio" O</p>	<p>Traditional media use</p>	
<p>"Let us support and be mindful of one another to survive this plague" B, "help our brothers and sisters in need" D2, "we have our hearts opened to more solidarity especially with the poorest of our communities" H1, "we can only overcome...coronavirus when we hold together, live in solidarity so that none has to starve" H3, "let us support all the initiatives that are meant to stand especially with the poor. No one should be left to lead an "orphan-like" life. We are one another's keepers" H4, "giving some assistance, no matter how small, to our neighbor and making sure that we give our brothers and sisters a hand in their struggles" J4, "I also call upon ordinary Christians to be your brother and sister's keeper.....make sure they have enough food reach out to them over the phone to check on them" L4, "this is an example of what it means for all of us to come together to defeat this virus" C3</p>	<p>Solidarity</p>	<p>Community spirit</p>

<p>"We call upon Ugandans to share the little you have with others, especially the disabled and the orphans and widows" C3 "encourage Christians to reach out to one another in as many ways as possible – phone calls, text messages, social media... especially important for the elderly and those who may be isolated [provide] practical, emotional, and spiritual support" L2, "appeal to companies, corporations, the private sector and all Ugandans of good-will to come to the assistance of the now vulnerable Ugandans, specifically persons with disabilities, the elderly, orphans, the sick, and care-givers who are being affected by the business lock-down" M2, "I, therefore, appeal to you to contribute food items: maize flour, beans, sugar, salt etc. which can be given to those individuals and families that are in dire need" H5</p>	<p>Supporting the vulnerable</p>	
<p>"Parents...encourage them [children] to revise their books, also do domestic work and have quality time with them to build their future. Help them not to be obsessed by televisions but watch only value addition films not destructive...we agreed to uphold directives for parental guidance" B, "we have seen the need for our members to be better equipped to read, understand, and apply the Bible. I call upon our church leaders to develop programmes that will equip every Christian to be able to read, interpret, and apply the Bible" L4</p>	<p>Supporting literacy</p>	
<p>"Avoid stigmatizing those who fall sick" C1, "all persons....who may have symptoms.....should, however, not be discriminated against or stigmatized but treated with dignity and love of Christ" K, "I urge the community to not stigmatize those who are survivors, celebrate their recovery and their return home. They are heroes and a walking testimony" L4</p>	<p>COVID-19 patient support</p>	
<p>"Even the world's economy is shutting down....money has failed to solve the problem" A2, "we also look forward to the government's plans to further stimulate the economy and support affected businesses and livelihoods...the impact of lockdown has been much harder than the coronavirus itself" L4, "since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, the world has faced many other viruses like hunger, unemployment" H4 "we appeal to the government of Uganda to consider taking measures intended to cushion citizens against the adverse effects of the economic impact of the lock-down on the lives of vulnerable people" M2, "the invisible pathogen is visible everywhere in the hospitalized and the dying, the masked faces, grounded airlines, closed borders, collapsing economies and closed places of worship" J2</p>	<p>Economic slowdown</p>	<p>Secondary effects of the pandemic</p>
<p>"It is worth noting that 68% of Ugandans live from hand-to-mouth and these [control] measures are likely to impoverish a large section of the citizens and cause untold suffering and engender lawlessness in the country. This is aggravated by the fact that the president's pronouncement was so sudden and caught Ugandans unprepared" M2, "there are many more vulnerable groups such as the elderly, the sick, lactating mothers, refugees and those living from hand to mouth like taxi touts, casual laborers, boda-boda riders among others who cannot fend for themselves during the lock down" M3, "the vulnerable among us have borne the weight of this exercise more than others, and we continue to pray for the Lord to feed you, even as He gave manna to his people in the desert during the Exodus" L4</p>	<p>Increased poverty and vulnerability</p>	
<p>"The pandemic has overshadowed other pandemics like HIV/AIDs which equally needs to be addressed. The council therefore calls for an integrated and inclusive response that addresses all the on-going initiatives on HIV and AIDS, malaria prevention, TB treatment and access to essential sexual and reproductive health services" L5, "I also ask all Ugandans to remember we are also fighting malaria, a disease that claims far more people than COVID-19 has claimed. So, please sleep under a mosquito net" L4, "up to-date, the government has not yet come up with a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic" M3</p>	<p>Disruption of care for other diseases</p>	
<p>"We were only shocked by our elected members of parliament who had managed to creatively allocate themselves a certain percentage instead of putting resources together in order to feed the hungry during the time of the lockdown" H3, "governments are paying exorbitant fees to keep absolving them of the dirt, so our representatives' 20M COVID money story should not dampen us so much" N4</p>	<p>Misuse of COVID-19 resources</p>	<p>Injustice during the pandemic</p>
<p>"The powers that be continue to ignore the fact that in markets, car parks, taxi stages, on roads, in offices.....people are not observing social distancing they let them go on with their normal activities; but for places of worship, we are told that we must hold on because we are going to endanger others! Is COVID-19 selective? Does it bring out its teeth to bite, only in places of worship? I would not waste my time arguing about opening or not opening our places of worship; let those two questions suffice. Time will tell" J6</p>	<p>Unfair application of COVID-19 control measures</p>	
<p>"Security organs in the country to enforce the restrictions respectfully; please do not beat your fellow Ugandans as if they were animals" C3, "I call upon the government to recognize clergy and lay readers as "essential employees," particularly in providing psycho- social services to Ugandans. If there is a sickness or death, clergy and lay readers are essential to providing community-based care, and should be respected by security personnel when they respond to such calls for prayer" L4, "there has been an increase in domestic and gender-based violence. I call upon our church leaders to support survivors of gender-based violence to develop programmes that will do a better job of teaching families better communication skills and conflict resolution skills. Violence is never acceptable. Never" L4, "we have also witnessed an increase of cases of gender based violence (GBV) during the lockdown. As religious leaders, we therefore, appeal and encourage us to work together to prevent GBV in our homes and communities and provide psycho-social support to the victims" L5</p>	<p>Violence and GBV</p>	

<p>"To business people, it is not a time to gain fraud profit" B, "there are some people who try to draw economic benefits from this situation at the expense of others: for instance, by hiking the prices of items or charging the services which are supposed to be free" F1, "it remains an imperative that nobody should, out of selfish interests, exploit the current pandemic for self-advancement" H4, "we all know that there are some bad people in the world who will try to take advantage of this crisis. I've already heard about people posing as health officials selling or giving away face masks, but the face masks will sedate people who then get robbed and abused" L2</p>	Economic injustice	
<p>"Give their offertory using church bank accounts or mobile money numbers" B, "send your gift through the following; bank accounts, mobile money platforms" C2, "do not neglect.....tithes and offerings. Bishops and clergy should explain to their Christians how to use online banking mobile money may be another means" L2</p>	Mobile money and online banking use	Technology use
<p>"Continue to pray for our gov't, and the church" A3, "pray to God to find a solution to this epidemic and also finding the right vaccine for it" B, "pray for Uganda to be spared from coronavirus and for the Lord to intervene in the global pandemic by reducing infections and healing those affected" C1, "I therefore call for this season to be a season of prayer and fasting for our people and our land.....we stand in prayer with those who are still struggling to recover" C2, "we are praying especially for his excellency, the president, and his dear wife, Mama Janet, as they lead us through this challenging season for all members of the judiciary and parliament.....for our leaders in the ministry of health, all the doctors and nurses and other healthcare professionals, for the police and UPDF personnel and all working in the security organs of our beloved country for God's protection and favour on all businesses, especially those that have been affected by the lockdown" C3, "let us pray for those working to minimize the impact of COVID-19" D2, "God our loving Father, we ask for your protection against the COVID-19 virus. Grant your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature, the cause of this virus, finding its cure and stemming the tide of its transmission guide the hands and minds of medical experts, the governments and the religious leaders for the effective medical and pastoral care...grant them the knowledge to find the right cure and solution to this pandemic" E, "pray for those who are working day and night to take care of the sick, for the scientists who are working day and night to find the vaccine and/or treatment for COVID-19" F2, "pray in particular for scientists, medical personnel and politicians" J1, "we pray that the pandemic does not affect more people and ask the Almighty God to grant recovery to the sick and quick solution to the pandemic" K, "call for this season to be a season of prayer and fasting for our people and our land I also call on the President to declare a weekly day of national prayer" L2, "God is our refuge and hope" A1, "I am calling upon everyone to fix our eyes to Him [God] to be on safe side be insured by the Blood of Jesus free of charge" B, "Do Not Be anxious... Jesus is Lord and Sovereign over the affairs of the world and over the affairs of Uganda" C1, "awaiting the Lords Victory over COVID-19" D1, "only tuning our ears to the One [God] with all the answers, that is the way to surviving the "stay at home" period" J5, "the people you are looking up to for help, are not exactly the solution, God is" N4, "hang on in there, help is on the way. I get encouraged when people who had tested positive [are] being discharged" J3, "when we do come back together again – and, we will!" L2, "no motor-vehicle transport, no business, no most activities, no food relief for many vulnerable citizens, but stay in-door. Is there hope? Certainly yes!" N5</p>	Hope, pray and trust in God	Hope versus uncertainty
<p>"But still uncertain about how it will end" A1, "COVID-19 pandemic has robbed us of our peace....the world is tired of deaths, quarantine, and lockdown...we are suffering" A2, "the whole world is at stake by COVID-19.....a time of muddle" B, "our lives have been significantly disrupted by the closures of churches, schools, and businesses, the restrictions on movement, and the nighttime curfew. Apart from the coronavirus, we have our fears about how to find money for school fees and food; we fear our job security; we still have concerns about politics and the upcoming elections; churches are fearing where their income will come from when Christians are not allowed to gather on Sundays" C3, "bishop said he is seriously disturbed by the impact of COVID-19 on pastoral activities" F3, "COVID-19 pandemic has cast a terrible darkness over the whole world" H1, "there is plenty of darkness around us. We are blinded by so many ugly things.....The virus, the injustices, political imbalances and family break-downs; darkness! Darkness!" J1, "through challenges, pains, desperation, redundancy, fear, hunger, isolation, poverty and global financial downward trend, let us keep hope.....look forward to life after the crucifixion by COVID-19" D1, "we are trying to find a solution to the problem, and no doubt by and by, we shall do so. But by that time a lot of damage will have been done! Many of us will have gone" J2</p>	Uncertainty, anxiety and fear	