**Annex 1 – Potential Research Questions**

Specifically, the purpose of this research will be to test the following hypothesis by evaluating its underlying assumptions:

**Building greater resilience of individuals and their communities through a mix of soft power intervention instruments tailored to each context, but which draw on core values of Identity, Tolerance, Inclusion, and Equity (ITIE), will achieve the following:**

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| **Assumptions** | **Potential Research Questions[[1]](#footnote-1)** |
| Exposing large numbers of young people at risk of / from violence or violent narratives (including those that may be engaged in them) to a range of alternative messages which promote notions and constructs of ITIE will build their individual resilience and self-efficacy to reject violence as a solution to their real or perceived grievances | 1. **What determines the propensity of young people to become radicalized in the context of Pakistan? What are those factors and indicators?** 2. How many young people may be at risk of participating/engaging in violence or susceptible to violent narratives in Pakistan? What are their demographics and socio-economic backgrounds? 3. What forms of alternative messages, constructs and opportunities would be most effective in countering these narratives? 4. Would provision of alternative perspectives and frameworks be sufficient in being prevented from joining violent extremist groups or continuing to sympathize with them? 5. How should messages & programming be constructed to ensure this tendency is effectively counteracted? 6. **How effective are British Council’s AC and DOSTI programmes in building the individual resilience of young people to counteract violence/violent narratives?** |
| Development of individual resilience will lead to greater collective efficacy and community resilience, particularly by making them more insulated against violence and violent narratives | 1. **Are resilient young people (e.g. AC and DOSTI participants) more resilient to violent narratives?** 2. To what extent do their perceptions and community social actions translate into collective community efficacy? 3. **What factors determine a community’s resilience towards violent narratives?** 4. How can these be instilled within the community to ensure their insulation against violence? 5. **To what extent have participants of AC and DOSTI been able to build/instil a degree of resilience within their communities?** |
| These ‘alternative pathways’ will provide young people with the framework and capacity to both question and counteract violent narratives by constructing their own alternative narratives; | 1. What are the key differences between young people who are part of programmes which promote ITIE and those who are not in terms of their inclination towards joining or sympathizing with violent extremist groups? 2. Does provision of employment opportunities ensure prevention against joining violent extremist groups? 3. Are programmes which emphasize on ITIE effective in constructing an alternative narrative to violence? |
| Promote greater cohesiveness within communities experiencing or at risk of/from extreme violence; | 1. **What roles do CSOs, government / security actors and private stakeholders play (if any) at countering violent extremism or radicalization in their communities?** 2. How effective have these measures been? What are the challenges they face? |
| Support and enable state actors to discharge their responsibilities with more understanding of the consequences of exclusion, intolerance, and rights abuses. | 1. What are the coordination gaps between CSOs/private stakeholders and government / security actors in counteracting violent extremism in young Pakistanis? What measures are being taken to fulfil these gaps? 2. What modes of countering violence and violent narratives do each of these institutes employ? 3. What role can the British Council play in promoting better cohesion between these actors? |

1. Please note that these questions are not all-encompassing, may be overlapping and will need to be revised. Core questions in **bold** are those which will need to be answered. The contracting agency will be required to posit them in a manner which effectively addresses the assumptions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)