#### Partnership with UNICEF to advocate the child issues in Maharashtra since 2015

#### Objectives:

#### To mobilise and orient legislators, across political parties in Maharashtra, on key issues related to children. The aim is to organise regular discourses and discussions for a few committed legislators (MLAs/MLCs) so that they may lend their voices to critical issues related to children on the floor of the Maharashtra state assembly.

**Outcome**

1. A working group of around 15 legislators is formed. The members of this group raise questions on five priorities at various platforms including the Vidhan sabha and Vidhan Parishad.
2. Issues such as quality of education, Water sanitation and hygiene, Neo Natal Mortality, stunting, issues of children of the migrant families have become part of formal/informal discourse by MLAs/MLCs and MPs.
3. State chapter of the Parliamentary working group for children is created and functional.

**Long-term Impact**

The partnership between Sampark and UNICEF is envisaged to strengthen the active participation of law makers, cutting across party lines, in policy formulation, implementation and review processes, with a specific reference to the realisation of the rights of children within the legal and programing framework, as issued by the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra.

The partnership aims to influence key lawmakers in the context of better planning and greater resource allocation to sectors related to children. Regular dialogue and knowledge sharing outside the partnership framework may induce lawmakers to intervene at an appropriate time and place, and take decisions towards building a safer and protective environment for the children of Maharashtra.