SUGGESTIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS
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1. Linkages between the MDGs (Millennium Development Goal) and School Nutrition – The working group identified three key linkages between its work and the MDGs

(a) The link between nutrition, children's ability to learn and their education achievement means that adequate nutrition is essential for achieving MDG 2 – Achieving Universal Primary Education.

(b) Since ‘School age children’ encompasses adolescents, the health and nutrition of this age group is essential for achieving MDG 5 – Improving maternal health.

(c) Adequate nutrition is essential for a healthy immune system and can reduce the severity of HIV infection. School can also provide a forum for health and nutrition education, including HIV/AIDS prevention education, and for caring for orphans and vulnerable children. This links with MDG 6 – Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

2. School feeding programs have been around for decades and continue to be one of the mainstay interventions aimed at school-age children. In the past decade we have learned that food in combination with
other interventions that address important school-age child health and nutrition deficits is more effective in achieving both education and nutrition objectives than feeding alone. These interventions include deworming, micronutrient supplementation, or improvements in the water and sanitation environment among others. The integration of other interventions with feeding programs also offers efficiencies in the delivery of these services. It is recommended that every effort possible be made to design and implement school feeding programs as food plus other school-age health and nutrition interventions.

3. Deworming has proven itself many times over to be one of the least costly and most effective interventions available for addressing both health and nutrition needs of school-age children. It is recommended that every opportunity possible be identified for providing deworming services to school-age children.

4. Nutrition education to the mothers as well as children at school level is needed. It may include information regarding the balanced diet, importance of good nutrition for both physical and mental development of the children, nutrient deficiencies their consequences and available remedies. They may also be told about the public health center (PHC) facilities including immunization of the children. They may be encouraged to utilize these health care facilities for the well being of their children.
5. Frequent medical check up and immunization programmes should be launched in the area. Parents should be encouraged to avail these programmes.

6. Healthy hygienic habits and cleanliness of the surrounding should be encouraged in children and their households. Healthy hygienic habits in children include taking bath daily, cutting nails, washing hands, regular brushing of teeth, cleaning of tongue and wearing clean clothes.

7. School text books may also be used as a medium for nutrition education. Information included such as physical development during childhood, nutrient requirement of school children, nutrient deficiency signs and importance of health and hygiene.