What's the Recipe for a Healthy Child in Mali?

**Rationale**
Exposure to fecal material in the environment, poor sanitation, and unsafe drinking water causes diarrheal disease, malnutrition, and death. Globally, WASH interventions can prevent up to 860,000 child deaths from undernutrition per year.

**WASHplus Mali = WASH + Nutrition**
USAID's WASHplus project implemented an integrated WASH-nutrition program in 180 villages in 3 districts of the USAID priority region of Mopti.

**BEFORE** | **Intervention Area** | **AFTER**
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35% of children under 2 had diarrhea in previous 2 weeks | 27% of children under 2 had diarrhea in previous 2 weeks | 
6% of children 6-23 months had minimum acceptable diet | 33% of children 6-23 months had minimum acceptable diet | 
58% of households practiced open defecation | 6% of households practiced open defecation | 
17% of households treated drinking water with chlorine | 44% of households treated drinking water with chlorine | 
10% of mothers washed hands before feeding a child | 54% of mothers washed hands before feeding a child |

**WASHplus Activities & Outputs**
- 146 villages open defecation free (ODF)
- 10,230 new/rehabilitated latrines
- 71,610 people gained access to improved sanitation facility
- 100 village post-ODF plans developed
- 4 new latrine designs developed
- 7,269 trees planted
- 15,423 new handwashing stations
- 19,000 children under 2 screened periodically throughout the year
- 1,233 demonstration sessions of cooking and breastfeeding
- 103 new water sources created/renovated (or in process)
- 41,200 people gained access to improved drinking water
- 174,208 Aquatabs sold
- 47 village water committees with sustainability strategies
- 1,875 demonstration sessions given on water treatment

**Results**
- Diarrheal disease and malnutrition decreased
- Trained relais and artisans at village level increased
- More nutritious food available and environment cleaner
- Strong collaboration among water, sanitation, health, and other directorates
- Women empowered
- New entrepreneurs created

**Key Ingredients**
- Integrating WASH and nutrition strategies
- Developing detailed behavior change strategy with long-term focus
- Tailoring approaches to local environments
- Working with communities and all levels of government to creatively overcome challenges