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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA (MUSICIAN AND HUMANITARIAN)

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in Unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African Women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	Joining us in studio today is Yvonne Chaka Chaka who most of us associate with her prolific musical career which spans almost three decades. Her hit records have earned numerous awards such as SAMA's, Kora's and OK TV's. She has performed across the globe with other mega star musicians like Bono, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keyes, Aretha Franklin, Angélique Kidjo, will.i.am, Annie Lennox, Youssou N'dour, Queen and Johnny Clegg. Whilst her music has entertained millions, her humanitarian efforts campaign for causes that affect millions, some of which include being chosen by Nelson Mandela as the First Ambassador for his 46664 Campaign and she continues to serve as an Ambassador for the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. She became the first Goodwill Ambassador for the global Roll Back Malaria partnership and continues to serve there as well as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Malaria, the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Envoy for Africa, which we will hear about more shortly. Welcome to the show Ms Chaka Chaka.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Thank you for having me.
DR. MALKA	From an early age you realised that you could use your talents to fight inequalities and injustices which are remembered by many in hit songs such as "I Cry For Freedom" and "Motherland". I would like to share with the listeners that Nelson Mandela wrote to you from prison describing how your music had sustained him. Can you tell us a bit more about the period when you wrote those two particular songs and also how you felt when you received the letter from Nelson Mandela?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	I started singing in 1985 and things were very difficult during that time. I'd just completed my matric and I was ready to go to university to study law but it didn't happen because at the age of 19 I.... well at the age of 18 I fell pregnant whilst I was in matric and I had my son, so my mother was very upset with me and I always look back and say if I knew what I know now I would not have fallen pregnant then, but I think I say to myself my son was a blessing from God. I brought him up in those difficult circumstances but as I say, if I had the education and the knowledge that I have now I would not have done it. So when I started singing in 1985.... because I grew up during the apartheid years and my mother worked as a domestic worker and I think it was during those times that I saw that there were so many inequalities in our country because when my father died at the age of 11 the white government took the house and we ended up staying in the madam's back yard. Sometimes they would call the police to come and raid us and they would take us back to the townships. So things were very difficult and at that age I just thought why me, is it because of the colour of my skin or is it because my mother is not that educated or

	<p>what is the problem and I vowed never to work for anybody in my life and I said at some stage I want to make a mark in this country, I don't know how, but I would do it. So from a very early age I was very determined to want to be somebody or to want to do something in my country. We knew about Nelson Mandela, I think every child knew, but we never knew his face we didn't know what he looked like. We sang songs like Oliver Tambo, Tete Ne botha, Akhulula Mandela, you know like Oliver Tambo speak to Botha to release Mandela, so I think every child was quite conscientised at that time because we knew things were not right in our country, things were not equal. So when I started singing I thought this is a great platform to air my views, to disseminate the information that I have about my country and fortunately or unfortunately, the song "I'm in Love with a DJ" which was my debut, a single, had already been written they were just looking for a girl so I was at the right place at the right time because Phil Hollis, who found me, said to me here's a song I'd like you to record this song and it all started there and in 1987 I remember being a very big star then. Siphso Mabuse came to me and said Winnie would like to see you. I freaked out, I said "what, I'm not a comrade, I don't know" you know you shook because you didn't know whether you've done something right or something wrong. Then you know we met with Winnie and she gave me two notes which one I still kept, the one that she wrote herself, in fact I should frame it and sell it for a lot of money. But the note that</p>
DR. MALKA	Yes, frame it, don't sell it, that's heritage.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	<p>.... but it's put nicely in my album and gave me two notes to say Yvonne Chaka Chaka, in fact the Chaka Chaka was Shak instead of Chak but I was very excited and I freaked out and I told my mother and my mother was just so upset she said "you can't, you know, the special branch will come here, we'll be investigated, you can't do that". You know it wasn't something that one could have been proud of but we were very scared, but I really look up to Winnie I must say, for me I think she was one of those women who came to every show where we were or if there was any crises Winnie would be the first one to come and talk to us and want to know what the problem was and for me she still remains the Mother of the Nation because she's always been and nothing will ever change. I mean some of us sang those songs because she encouraged us to sing about Mandela, she encouraged us to sing about the injustices that were happening in our country so for that I really think she did a great job, she kept the Mandela name up there because she constantly reminded us that this man if you guys don't talk, if you guys don't sing about it we are going to forget about this man and we don't need to do that and I've got so much respect for her.</p>
DR. MALKA	And I think that with a musicians voice, musicians immortalise our history in their narratives and particularly when we think of Africa we've got such a rich oral history that it just sustains it and it goes through from generation to generation.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	<p>Absolutely because you know people like Miriam Makeba, people like Dorothy Masuka they ended up in exile because they were talking about the terrible laws that this country had and they never got to come back home so these people were in exile for 30 years so you can imagine because they were singing, they were talking to the world in a better way that they understood, through music.</p>

DR. MALKA	And after almost 30 years in the music industry and as you've mentioned you started within the apartheid regime through to the liberation; through to our first democratic election and subsequent ones and you've worked with the likes of South African legends like Miriam Makeba, but also others and during these years where we've seen the whole transformation of South Africa at the same time you've also transformed into a legend yourself, even earning the title "Princess of Africa". Can you take us through a couple of the most memorable moments in your career?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	You know my career has been a very interesting one because from when I started singing I know I was called an overnight success. I guess nobody really thought there was longevity in the music industry. My mother was just very upset anyway. My two sisters thought I was mad to sing and they insisted that I do go to university because they said you have to have something to fall back on because you don't know, you've got this hit "I'm in Love with a DJ" and what after that and I'm actually very happy that they did that because you know as much as I had my feet firm on the ground I didn't know if it would be sustainable.
DR. MALKA	Did you pursue the law degree as well?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	I tried to really study in law, I tried studying law, I failed Afrikaans; I failed History 1, I failed Mercantile Law and I said to my mother it's not working let me try and do something else so I studied through Trinity College of London, I did speech and drama and public speaking and I then went to UNISA to study adult education. I wasn't sure if I would really finish my degree so I did my certificate first because then I was really busy just doing my music and Professor MacKay who was my professor at UNISA encouraged me to do a higher diploma as well, so it was a three year course that I did because I wasn't sure if I would do a degree for 3 years, will I be able to do it, you know my shows my tours and things like that. At the back of my mind I thought I needed something to fall back on. I need to be able to acquire knowledge as well. I went to pursue something else and I did Business Management and Administration because I thought I want to pursue business and I'm a business person so I need something that will really help me understand the business that I'm in and I was quite happy that I did that. I'm trying to pursue my MBA now, it's very difficult at 49 to study but you know I've seen women at 50 at 55 studying and I get very encouraged because I always say to myself you're never too old to learn.
DR. MALKA	A hundred percent, never too old to learn and the flexible options that are in place now allow us to be able to incorporate things into our lives.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh absolutely.
DR. MALKA	It may take a bit longer but at the end of the day.....
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Yes because the brain is not as flexible as it used to be.....
DR. MALKA	Never mind the brain it's fitting in all the other commitments that come in and you lead an incredibly busy life with everything that you do.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh true. You know travelling and performing and doing tours and doing all sorts of things really, they really kept me busy and I have to thank my family because they've given me unconditional love, from my husband to my children and my mother before she died, she'd always been there for me but I travelled with my kids when they were younger.

DR.MALKA	So they were with you the whole time?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh yes, yes.
DR. MALKA	And what is your formula to manage everything?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	You know I always say to people you know, we are all man as human beings but some of us who bring life into this world and endowed with boobs and backsides and things are well organised man, you know women, so we really try to tackle the bull by the horn. We make things which seem impossible to work, so I said to myself here am I with this career and I want to build a family and I want to be a mother as well and I think it's very, very important not to be a remote control mother because really that becomes a huge problem so I travelled with my kids. I had a nanny coming with me if I was going on tour and when I'm back home I wanted to make sure that I try to be this good wife, so I think there's no recipe for being a parent, there's absolutely no recipe of being a wife as well, you do things as they come with the hope that things will be okay and I must say, in my 25 years in this marriage I've had the greatest support from my husband and my children and my two eldest sisters and you know we tend to forget the people who help us as well, my helpers have constantly been there, brought up my children and they're like families, like family to me now.
DR. MALKA	So it's having a really strong support structure?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh ja, I really think so because you really can't do it on your own, you know, you can't do it on your own but I always say as a mother you constantly have to be there as well even though it's not easy. I've been a tuck shop mother at my children's school, I've been a class mother because you know it makes them feel good as well to see you being involved in their school work so I've really, really tried to do that which was not very easy, I mean my baby is 21 years old now.
DR. MALKA	'Cause you've got four children?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	I've got four sons.
DR. MALKA	Four boys?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Yes.
DR. MALKA	Wow so you're the woman in an all male household.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	So I guess that's why things in my household are very easy because they know when the bull is upset there's no food, so they treat me with kid gloves and they make sure that they make their beds, they pick their socks from the floor and they put them where they're supposed to and they just clean up.
DR. MALKA	And I think the dynamic that's also interesting is in terms of how they're growing up as boys but being, they're having to fill all of the duties, it's not a case of some of the responsibilities are going to the girls in the house.....
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Well unfortunately, unfortunately.....
DR. MALKA	...and others to the boys, they're doing everything.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh yes, all the chores is, you know if I have to start cooking one of them has to just help me with peeling the potatoes or doing something, one of them will have to wash dishes and they know that is just the rule of the house and they've gotten used to that.
DR. MALKA	We'll be right back after this.
	AD BREAK

DR. MALKA	You're listening to 'Womanity – Women in Unity', on Channel Africa, the voice of the African Renaissance, on frequency 9625 KHz, on the 31 meter band. Today we're talking to musician and humanitarian Miss Yvonne Chaka Chaka. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter@WomanityTalk. Now picking up on our discussion.....
DR. MALKA	Miss Chaka Chaka you have become a role model throughout the African continent and a warrior, an agent change on a global scale. Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon called you the Queen of the Quality after lending your voice to the Free and Equal Campaign for Gay Rights and you were chosen by Nelson Mandela as the First Ambassador for his 46664 Campaign and continue to serve as an Ambassador for the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. You're an active citizen of the world and you use your celebrity status to power causes like these, please can you share some insights into what drives you in these campaigns?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	You know doc. I guess knowing how is it like not to have food and growing up during apartheid and seeing those atrocities that were happening to our women, to our children. We've seen women being abused and beaten by their husbands, really made me to want to do other things, not only in my country but in the whole world if I may. Then I started singing and then I had this platform and I had this voice and I had this status that allowed me to be able to do that. When I was asked you know, by Madiba to be the 46664 Ambassador I thought you can never say no to that man because for me I constantly say Nelson Mandela; Oliver Tambo and all other leaders, your Ahmed Kathrada and all the other African leaders, they fought for us and they gave us back our dignity. I constantly say today I am the woman I am because of my mother to start with and today I call South Africa home and a proud citizen of the world because of people like Nelson Mandela and all other leaders who fought for us and gave us back our dignity because you can imagine, being a citizen of South Africa we never were allowed to vote. We lived in the townships and when we had our freedom we were allowed to live anywhere and we were allowed to interact with our white counterparts, so that for me was something that I was like proud of calling South Africa home because before you didn't even want people to know if you were a South African. You felt very ashamed to call South Africa home because you knew that you were just a non-entity in South Africa. So when I started singing I thought I need to sing but I wanted to tell the world about all the good and the bad, whether it was about women's emancipation or women's plights or women going to a clinic walking 20 kilometres and sometimes some of them don't even go there...
DR. MALKA	Being able to tell the truth as it is.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Tell the truth as it is and say once the truth is told what do you do to help disseminate that information or help to empower others because you have been empowered by those people. I never forget that I am what I am today because of the people who buy my records, because of the people who call me the Princess of Africa, but in return what do I do for them, do I just live in cloud nine and say I am a superstar? I don't think so. Do something constructive that will empower others that will make sure that those who are disenfranchised and segregated are helped or you pull them along with you as you go up the ladder.
DR. MALKA	So it's your way of being able to give back on a grander scale?

YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Well I want to think so because really for me the work that I do it's not only in South Africa. We've just finished filming a documentary called The Motherland Tour: Stories of African Women . I travelled to places like Ghana, Sierra Leone, Namibia listening to women's plights because I think women know their problems and they do know their solutions and you all have to give them a hand up. I don't believe in hand-outs at all I believe in hand up because then it's like saying to a child or anybody I will take you to the river and teach you how to fish so that you can constantly be able to fish for yourself. I'm not going to come here and give you fish, when you finished eating it, what happens?
DR. MALKA	Providing the skills, having the sustainable elements and dialoguing is absolutely critical. That's why I find on many occasions people don't necessarily talk about things in the open but when they have smaller groups, particularly women, it's when they have those discussions it's when they feel comfortable it's when they open up, express themselves and then they also at the same time it's coming up with the solutions that are right for them.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh yes, absolutely, absolutely you know I remember when I travelled to Zambia there was Chieftainess, she was amazing, she was about 40 something years old and she said I decided to go back to school full time because I realised that I got married at the very early age and I had children and I was not empowered at all. My husband could do anything that he wanted and I would never negotiate anything, but if I go to school with these young people it will be very easy for me to stand out there and say to them go to school because I am going to school myself and those are the things to really make me want to think it's never too late to learn and there still is a bright light at the end of the tunnel because I think really, can you imagine if a woman is not educated, some of her children will never find the reason to go to school so it will become a vicious cycle, but if a woman is educated she will make sure that she gets her children to be even more educated than her so that they shouldn't depend on her.
DR. MALKA	We always want more for our children than we do for ourselves.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Oh absolutely, absolutely.
DR. MALKA	And that's the multiplier effect that their lives will inevitably always be better than ours because of how we drive..... forwards
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	That is very true. That is true.
DR. MALKA	Apart from the work that you've done, you've mentioned the Motherland tour doing the travels there, you are also the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Malaria and recently you were in Namibia under this umbrella, can you tell us more about what the role entails and where it has taken you?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	In 2004 I travelled to Gabon, it was South Africa's tenth anniversary and they had a big Jamboree there, they had artists from all over Africa and I got invited to go and perform there. Coming back one of my musicians contracted malaria, Phumzile Ntuli, contracted malaria in Gabon and we came back home and I still remember very well when we came out of the plane she just said to me "Gogo", they call me "Gogo", I've got a headache and my husband was at the airport to come and pick me up and he said to her you know what, go home relax because it was a very early flight, go home and relax but make sure

	<p>that by the afternoon you come back to see me or if you think my practice is too far just go to any clinic or any doctor, but insist, just insist that they check if you've got malaria and three days later I got a call from Phumzile's flatmate to say she's not well at all, you know, her eyes are yellow and things like that and it was just terrible, so we got an ambulance, we met her in hospital so they took her to ICU and long story short, she had Cerebral Malaria and she died and that for me was a wake-up call, a very big wake-up call I thought. Phumzile was a session musician, she would perform with me, she would perform with Miriam Makeba, she would perform with Keifer Senleta and Stimela, she would work with different artists but this particular trip she decided to come with me and I said to myself this is something that I never anticipated, what do I do and things like that. Went, buried Phumzile and it was just so sad that she had left a young boy. I wanted to do something about malaria. I went on every encyclopaedia I could get hold of, I googled, I wanted so much information about malaria and when I read that malaria was preventable and treatable and yet so many women and children were dying I thought this is not acceptable, what can I do? Called Madiba's office, called the Department of Health, I was just mad I didn't know what to do, but I think God was sitting there watching because He knew what He had planned for me. In January 2005 I got a call from Ethiopia, from UNICEF, they were looking for this Yvonne Chaka Chaka to be a Goodwill Ambassador. So I flew to Ethiopia they had actually a big show they were celebrating Bob Marley's 60th birthday so they said to me we've got two things that we'd like you to come to Ethiopia for. We would like you to come and perform for Bob Marley's 60th birthday and we would like to have a meeting with you the following day. Okay. Didn't even know what the thing was.</p>
DR. MALKA	So you didn't even know in terms of what their expectations were for you.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	<p>So I went, performed and the following morning and I had this guy called Bjorn and there was a lady called Bushi who kept on calling me in South Africa to say you have to go to Ethiopia and they said oh the show was great last night sorry to wake you up this morning but here's a letter, we'd like you to be a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. I thought okay, what does that entail? You know we'd like you to do a lot of work about AIDS in the whole of Africa. I thought okay, AIDS, I fully understand and I really appreciate but I need to tell you a story. I said in the past five months my life had changed totally and I think it's a great gesture that you want me to be a Goodwill Ambassador but I'd like to be a Goodwill Ambassador on malaria. So they looked at me and they said but South Africa's like the first world there's not much malaria in South Africa. I said well I don't consider myself a South African, I am a very proud South African but I'm a citizen of Africa and I've read that malaria kills so many women, children under five and it is preventable and curable and very few people talk about it and even I was totally ignorant about malaria. They looked at each other and they said its okay. So it's like I became the first UN Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador to choose a cause because they actually come to you and say we'd like you to help us on this.</p>
DR. MALKA	So they nominate the area that want
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	They nominate you on the areas that they think you can help them with, you know and it started there and I have not stopped, you know.

DR.MALKA	So that's been going nine years already.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	It's been going nine years next year, I'll be turning fifty. It will be my thirtieth anniversary in the music industry and it will be ten years since I became UNICEF and Roll Back Malaria Goodwill Ambassador. It's been eye opening. I've travelled, I've seen faces and places, I've engaged with leaders of the world, I've seen change. I've seen women are using these impregnated nets, sleeping under them. I've seen numbers of malaria going down, you know, I've seen hospitals, beds becoming empty. I said to the UNICEF people and Roll Back people that I work with I don't just want to be that celebrity who comes when there's a cheque to be given or when there's pictures to be taken. I'm a musician I'm a mother and I know how those women feel out there. I want to dedicate my life to go to the fields. I want to know exactly what is happening. I said to myself I am a woman, I am a mother and most of the people who are dying are in this continent and they will understand me better because I am one of them and I know how they feel and I can put myself in their shoes and say to them I am a mother, I'm a woman and I'm an African above all, how can we talk, how can we help each other to better your situation?
DR. MALKA	You've got a very hands-on approach and strong empathy which resonates through you and I'm sure that really connects with the ladies that you engage with.
DR. MALKA	We'll be right back after this.
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	You're listening to 'Womanity – Women in Unity', on Channel Africa, the voice of the African Renaissance, on frequency 9625 KHz, on the 31 meter band. If you've just tuned in we're talking to musician and humanitarian Miss Yvonne Chaka Chaka who has just shared components from her global humanitarian work and the lives of millions of people that she affects with the activities that she engages with.
DR. MALKA	Miss Chaka Chaka in August South Africa annually celebrates Women's Month, marking the years that women have struggled and reflecting on the progress that women have achieved. Part of your contribution this year, I believe, was releasing your teen pregnancy awareness song "Let's Talk" which featured twice SAMA award nominated African Hip Hop artist Reason and the song was produced with the support of the Reducing Maternal Child mortality through sustaining primary healthcare as well as the National Department of Health to promote family planning and reduce maternal death and earlier, at the beginning of our interview, you mentioned that you had your first child at 18, what message would you like to convey to teenagers regarding teen pregnancy.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	I think teenage pregnancy is a big problem that we are having, not only in the urban areas but in rural areas. It's a teenage issue and the ones that I talk to some of them it's because pressure, you know, peer pressure from friends wanting to be smart and sleep with boys without even knowing that this body is probably not ready to carry a child. Not only the body but your mental state, you're not ready psychologically to even become a mother because you want to be young, you want to be hip and you decide to be pregnant, so when I was asked to do this by RMCH and the Department of Health I thought, I'm a mother myself but what do I come with, so I thought I come with experience here. I've had a child when I was young and I knew it wasn't very easy. I still wanted to go to the streets and play, I still wanted to go out with my friends but I could not do that. I did not even get a chance to go to

	<p>a proper, traditional university because I was a mother so I had to study through UNISA or Trinity College of London, you know, it was those colleges, long distance colleges. So I go around I mean over the week-end where in Polokwane talking to young people to say it is not easy to be a mother. So I'm actually very happy that our Minister Molets wedi, he's an amazing minister. He's hands on and he's worked with great, great, great people. I mean the DG... those are just amazing people. We've gone to talk to different young people to listen to them as well to hear what the problems are because they come back to us and say our parents don't talk to us. So it's still another problem that we as parents do not talk to our children about sex. We can't run away from the fact that it is an African thing that adults do not talk to their children about sex.....</p>
DR. MALKA	It's still taboo.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	<p>It is something that is very taboo but unfortunately, with all the sicknesses that are there, we need to be talking. We may not talk direct but we need to sit down and talk to our children. Once a girl is twelve or thirteen and they start menstruating we need to tell them that their hormones scream sex and I think it is important that we do talk but now, with the houses which are so many of them where there's child headed families, that's another problem. Half of the children that we talk to them, they have these children not from their peers but from sugar daddies because they promise them cell phones.....</p>
DR. MALKA	So they're looking....
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA they promise them money
DR. MALA	...they're doing sexual favours to be looked after.....
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Exactly.
DR. MALKA	...and beyond just financial looking after....
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	So it's a social, social....
DR. MALKA	It's emotional needs too.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	<p>Absolutely. This is a real, it's a social issue that we need, that everybody needs to talk about because you can imagine if a child is brought up by just a granny, the granny doesn't have the money to buy me the shoes that I want, the cell phone that I want but uncle so-so will do something for me. So it's actually very sad what is happening, so we don't need to be talking to girls only we need to be talking as the community, all of us, to say why are we so quiet when are children are going haywire and when these men, some of them have women, have wives and they just use these girls for whatever time and they disappear, they go.</p>
DR. MALKA	It's almost child abuse.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	<p>But we never talk about those things and I really think it's so unfair because we've had, we've got other men who are good men out there, who are looking well after their children and will protect their girl child from any of these things so those are the men we need to be talking to as well to say please talk to your counterparts because really, this is not fair. Now you can imagine these children are left torn emotionally because they're pregnant or some of them maybe one was a virgin and you just feel dirty that I've done something like this and the man is gone. And, but the worst part is when you're being left pregnant, no support system. So it's a whole lot of problems that we</p>

	need to unpack and say how to go back to Ubuntu Bethu
DR. MALKA	We need the values to be reinvested back into society...
YVONNEN CHAKA CHAKA	Oh yes, absolutely.
DR.MALKAto deliver on the socio-economic factors. I was very moved by one of the statements in your profile, and I quote: <i>“I know what it’s like to sleep without food. I know what it’s like not to have. My mom taught me that when you die you will never take anything with you so when I have I share with others”</i> . On a personal level, what would you like your legacy to be?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	You know people always say oh you’re a great role-model, I don’t know about that, I don’t think I’m a role-model. I’ve got my faults, I’ve got you know all the things that I do wrong. I don’t know about the legacy, you know, for me is knowing well that somebody out there doesn’t have and if you have, why can’t you share. I always say I’m not Patrice Motsepe, I’m not an Oprah, I’m not a Gates, but the little that God has given me I want to share. Sometimes it’s not all about money though it’s about being there for these people, taking your time out and forgetting your stardomness or your comfort zone and go down to ordinary people, see how they feel, see what they need, help where you can because I always say we may have everything that we have but when we are born we are born with nothing and when we live we have to live to empower each other, to help each other, to take each other out of the frustrations and the burdens that we have. My kids always say to me but mum, you can’t change the world you found it like this. I say to them I know that I cannot change the world but I can change one person’s life because maybe that’s what God has asked me to do. So when I do all the things that I do I know that sometimes there’s so many challenges and shortcomings because I really want to build this clinic in Namibia. I’m not getting the funds that I’m looking for and I get so frustrated but I say to myself it will happen, it will happen. It’s not about the legacy it’s about helping where you can because really, when you die you take absolutely nothing, no money, no jewellery, nothing you leave all these things here on earth. So I really think it’s important that when we can we need to help each other and those ordinary women who go out there and make things happen for their communities with absolutely nothing, those to me are our unsung heroes.
DR. MALKA	A lot of the work you have done involves women in particular across all walks of life, in your opinion what areas do you think that we need to build on the most to benefit women in the future?
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	You know when women are disenfranchised, as I said, and so segregated and being told there place is in the kitchen, that becomes a problem, but when women are empowered they become amazing because it makes me so angry that a man will go and work in Gauteng or urban areas and leave me as a wife in a rural area and I have to be fending for these children and he comes back sick and I can’t even negotiate to sleep with a condom with him. It becomes so frustrating but if we can teach our women to be able to do things for themselves, you know sometimes people always think oh but Yvonne it’s not right and.. I say there’s a difference between being submissive and respecting your husband or your husband respecting you, those are two different things. I’ve seen all over where I’ve went, whether it was in Sierra Leone or in Ghana where women have given a piece of land they will plough food to feed everybody including the man and we went

	<p>to pieces of land which were given to man, there was absolutely nothing and if you empower women, if you give them every skill that they need to be able to sustain their lives they would not only do it for themselves, they would do it for the larger community and for everybody including the very man who sometimes abuse them. It becomes so sad when a woman knowing that I do not have money and my child has malaria or something and they don't know what to do to get a net or to get food for their children. So you can imagine, but when women are empowered, when they're educated they will do things for themselves, they will even make sure that their children, both boys and girls, have better education so that they don't depend on them and so that they can live a better life. I believe in empowering both women and men but women will have to work twenty times to make their lives better or to be at par with their counterparts so I constantly say if we can educate our children from an early age that there are no choices for women and choices for men, we are all equal it's just that men are a bit strong, you know, physically and women are feminine we have to respect them the way they are but working towards making better communities and better societies.</p>
DR. MALKA	Thank you so much, it's been such a pleasure having you here on our show today.
YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA	Thank you for having me.
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