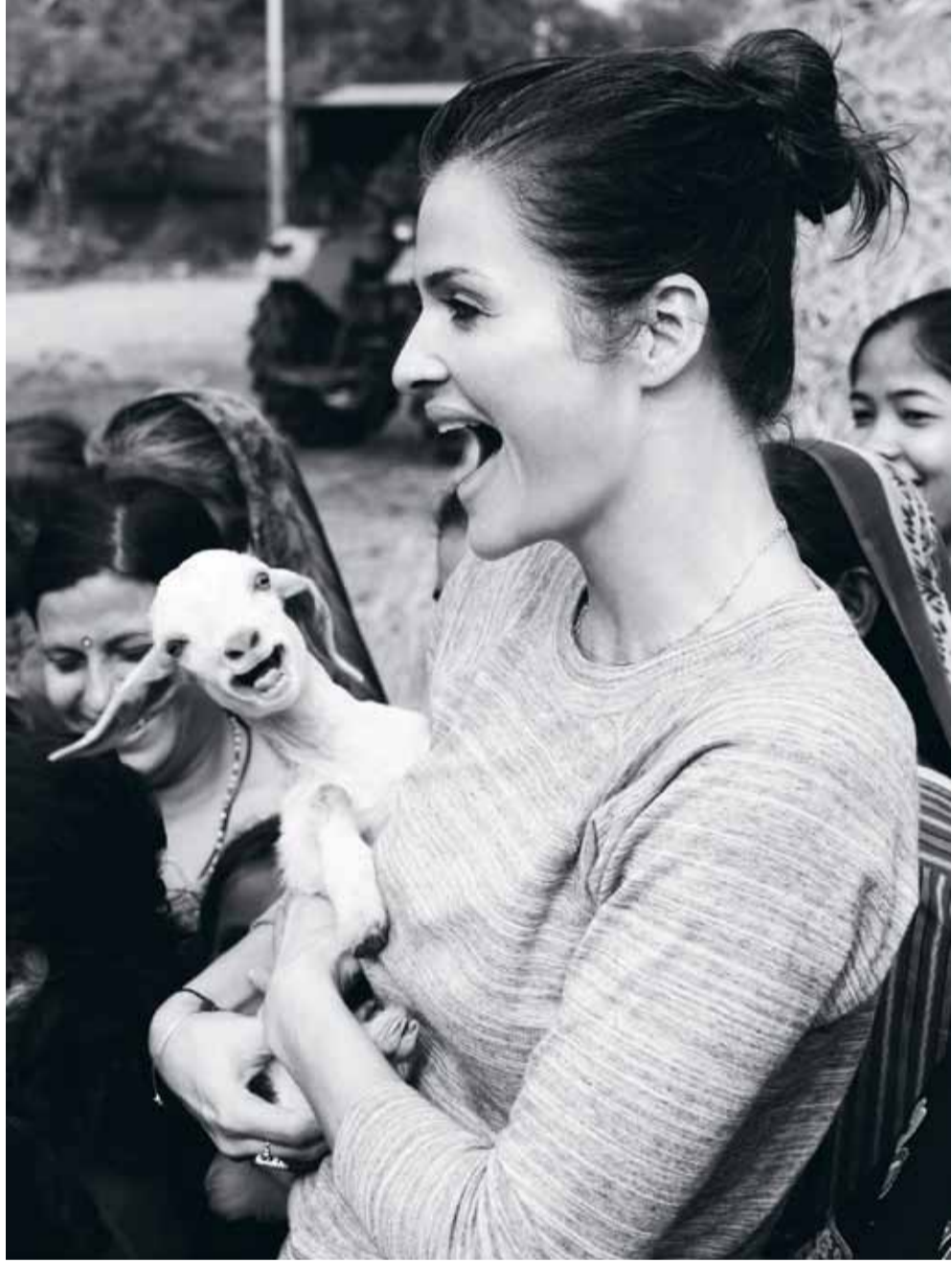


MELT DOWN

By Helena Christensen





Over the past couple of years, I have travelled to three continents in my role as an Oxfam Global Ambassador. Along the way, I've collected memories of many incredible moments, people, communities and ways of life. I've captured hundreds of these with my camera and, in this way, they will live with me forever.

For communities devastated by climate change – just like those I visited in Nepal, Peru and Kenya – the word 'forever' has a very different meaning. On my trips I witnessed disappearing glaciers, flooded villages and dry, barren landscapes. I also spoke to countless families who know what it's like to lose everything, from family members to homes and livelihoods. But despite huge efforts from millions of people, governments have not yet made the decisions so desperately needed to protect the people living in these areas.

My experiences with Oxfam have left me in no doubt that we're facing a global meltdown. Rainfall is unpredictable, droughts are now more frequent, floods are getting deeper – climate change is ruining lives. The negative effects of global warming are spreading, not just like tiny rings in the water, but like giant waves across the whole world.

It doesn't have to be this way. It's within the grasp of our governments to be life-savers – which is why I wanted to get involved in this project. We can't retrace our steps to follow the footprints we wish we'd never made. But we can find a new way forward. The men, women and children in my images deserve to live beyond the lens and be remembered by our governments as lives rather than numbers. These images are intended to remind people discussing the fate of our planet that the future is not set in stone.

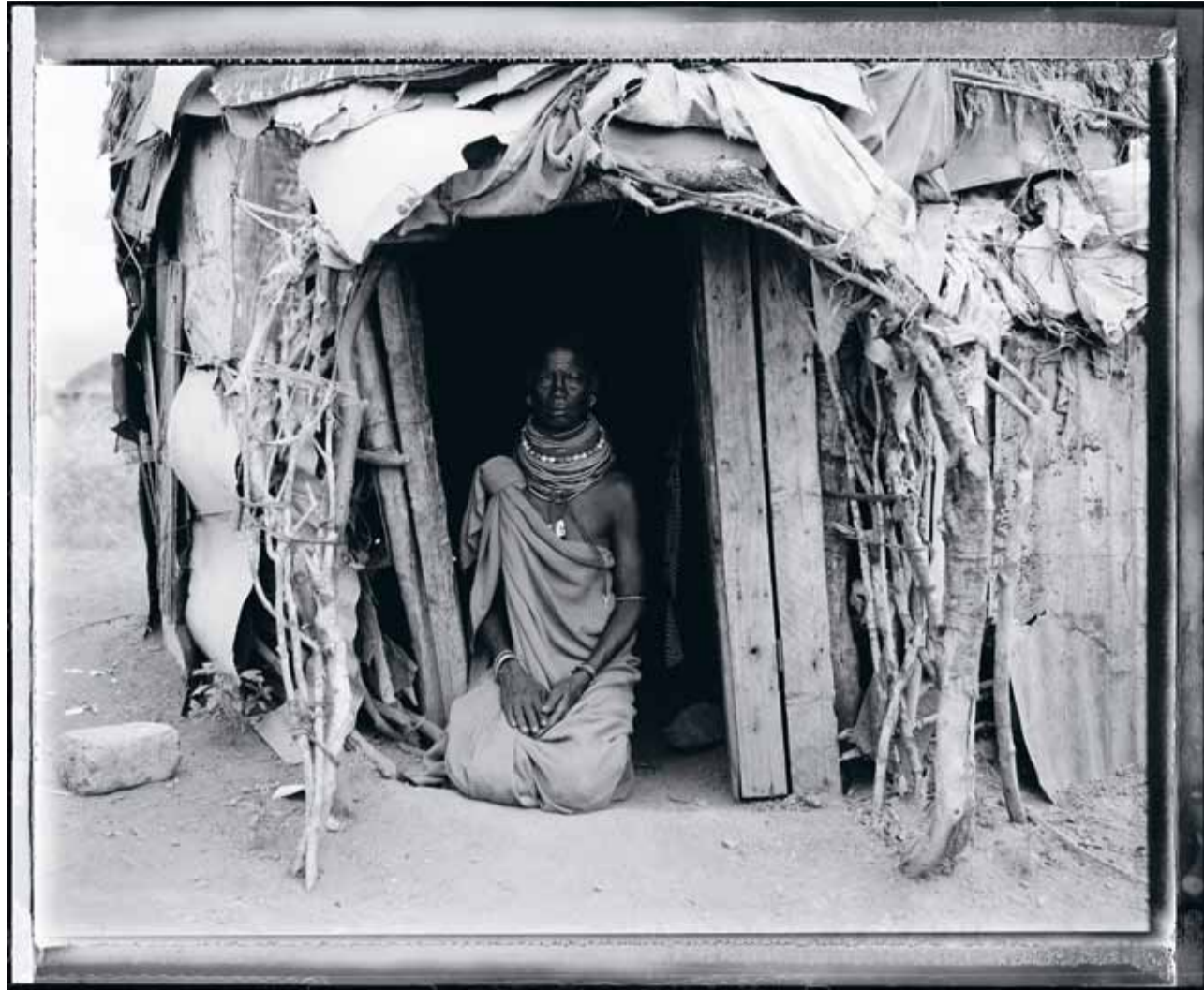
So, I have not set out to document a meltdown; I have set out to document hope. My hope is that one day very soon world leaders will commit to making life-saving changes.

Helena Christensen

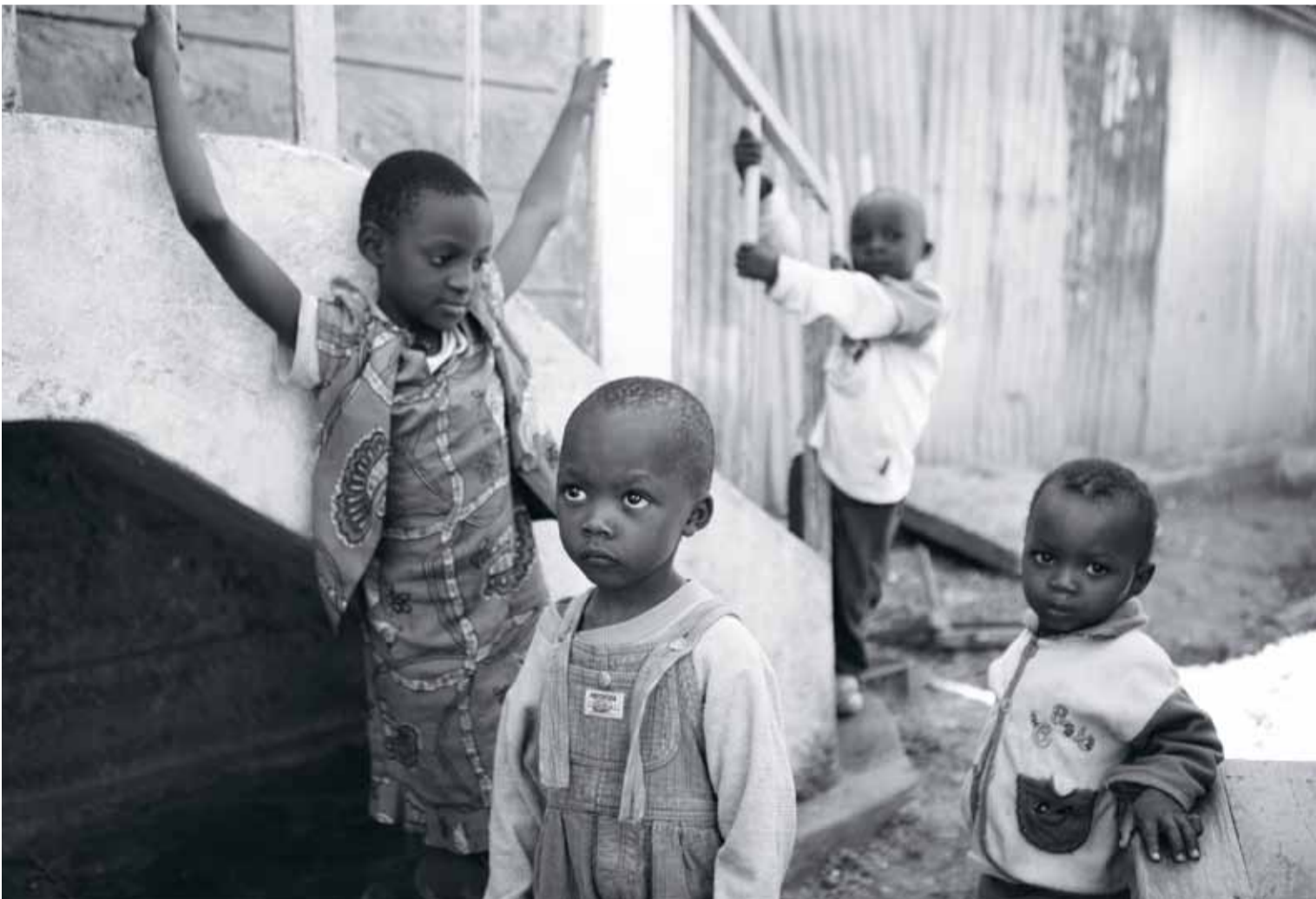














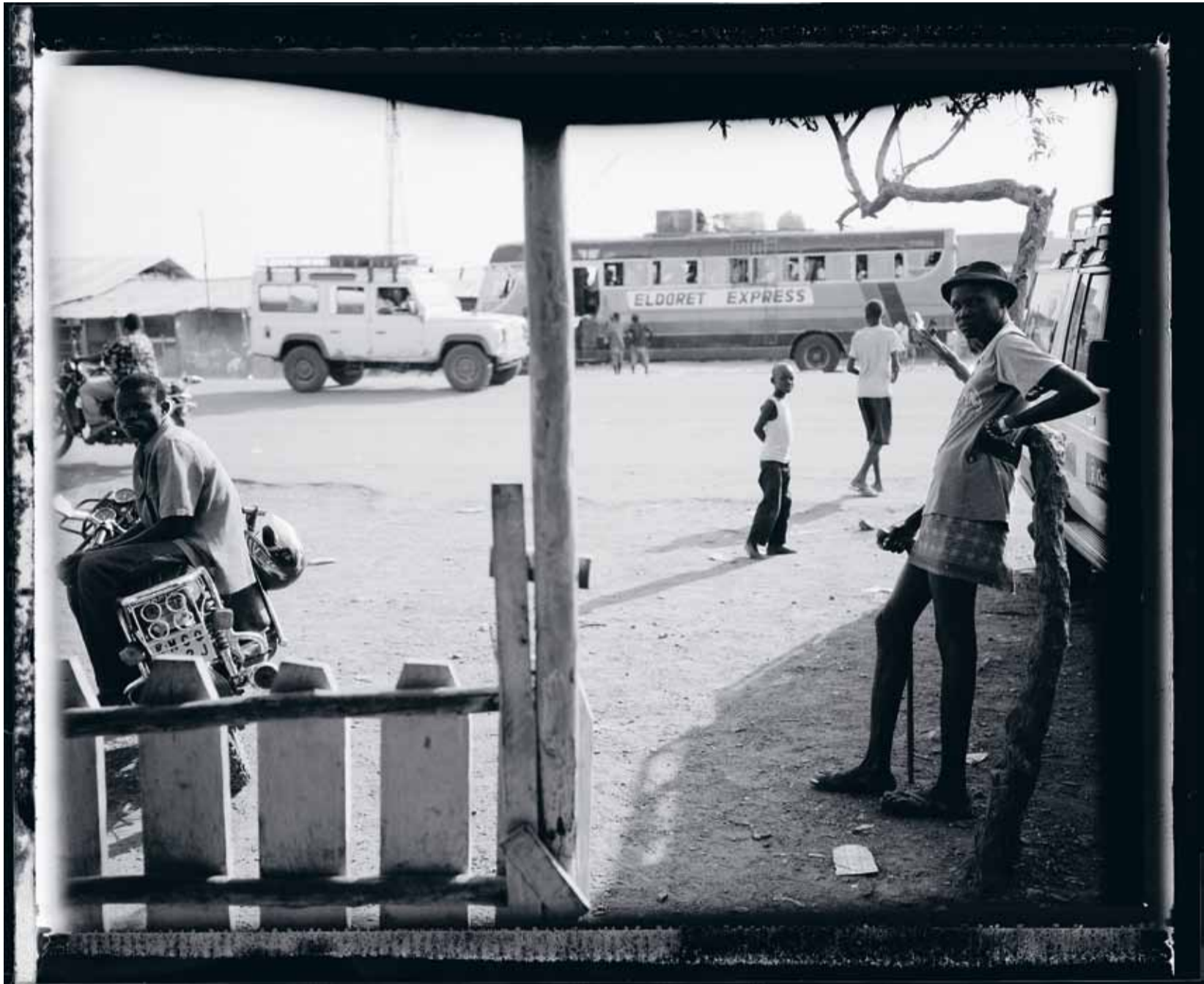








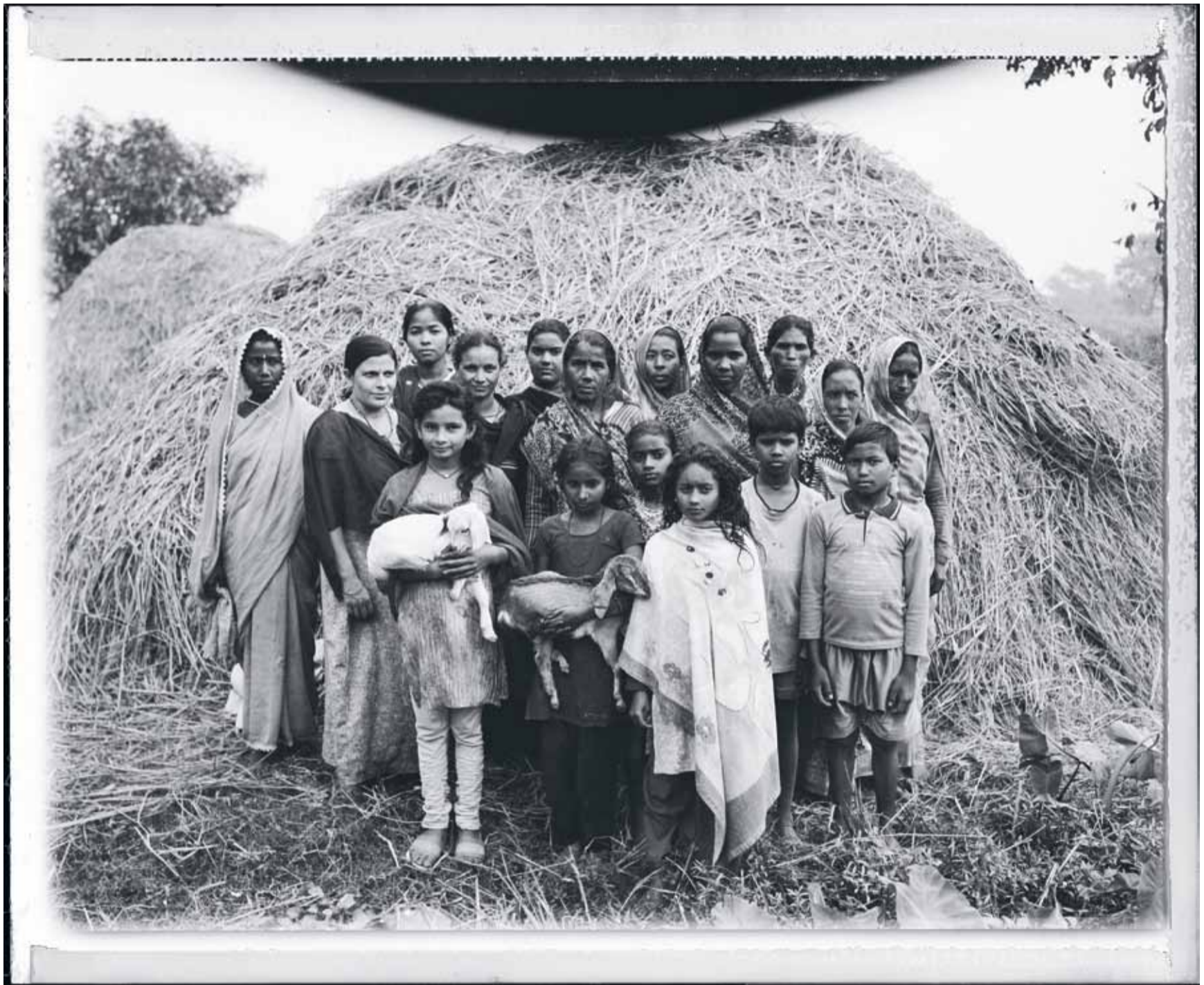


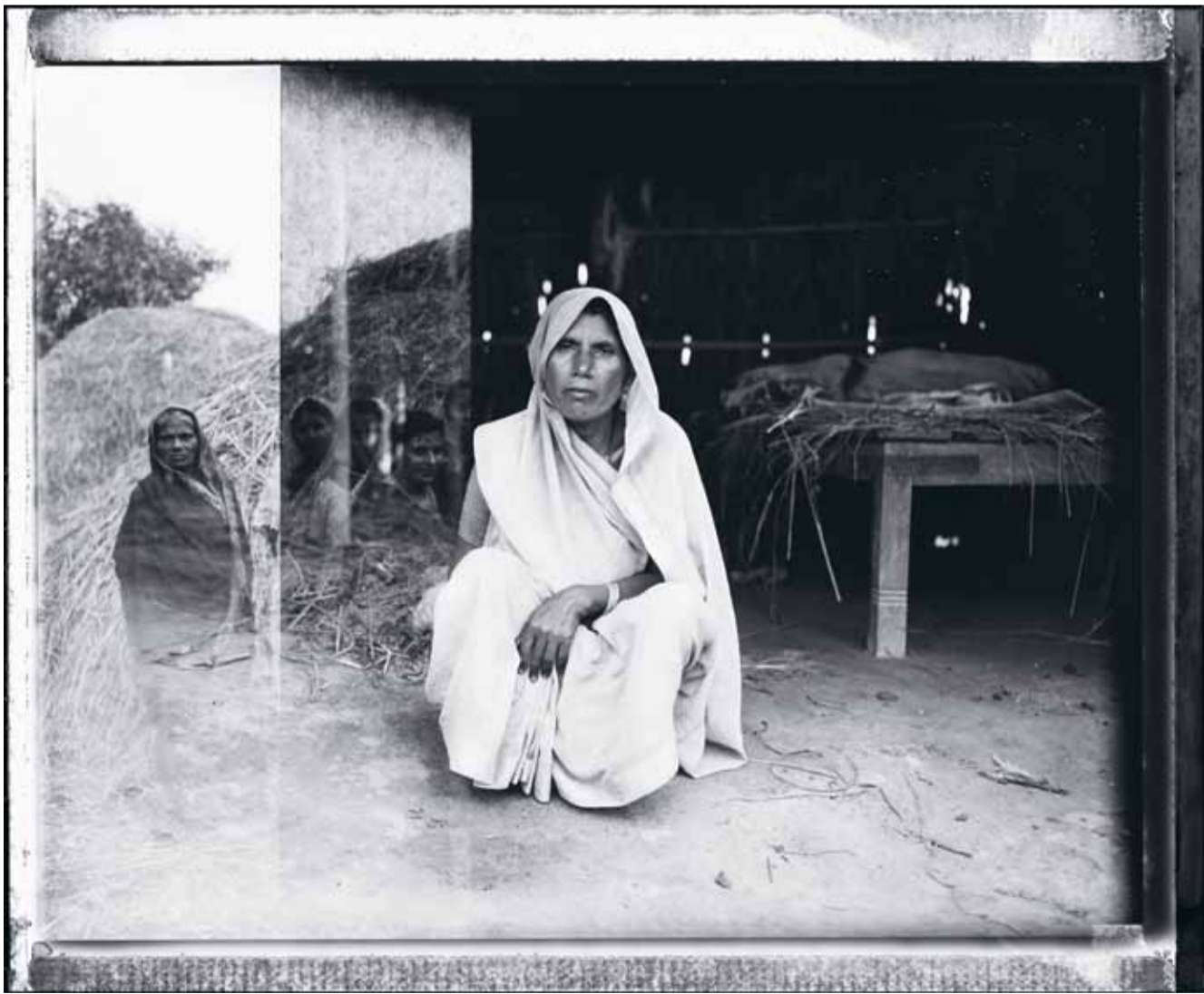
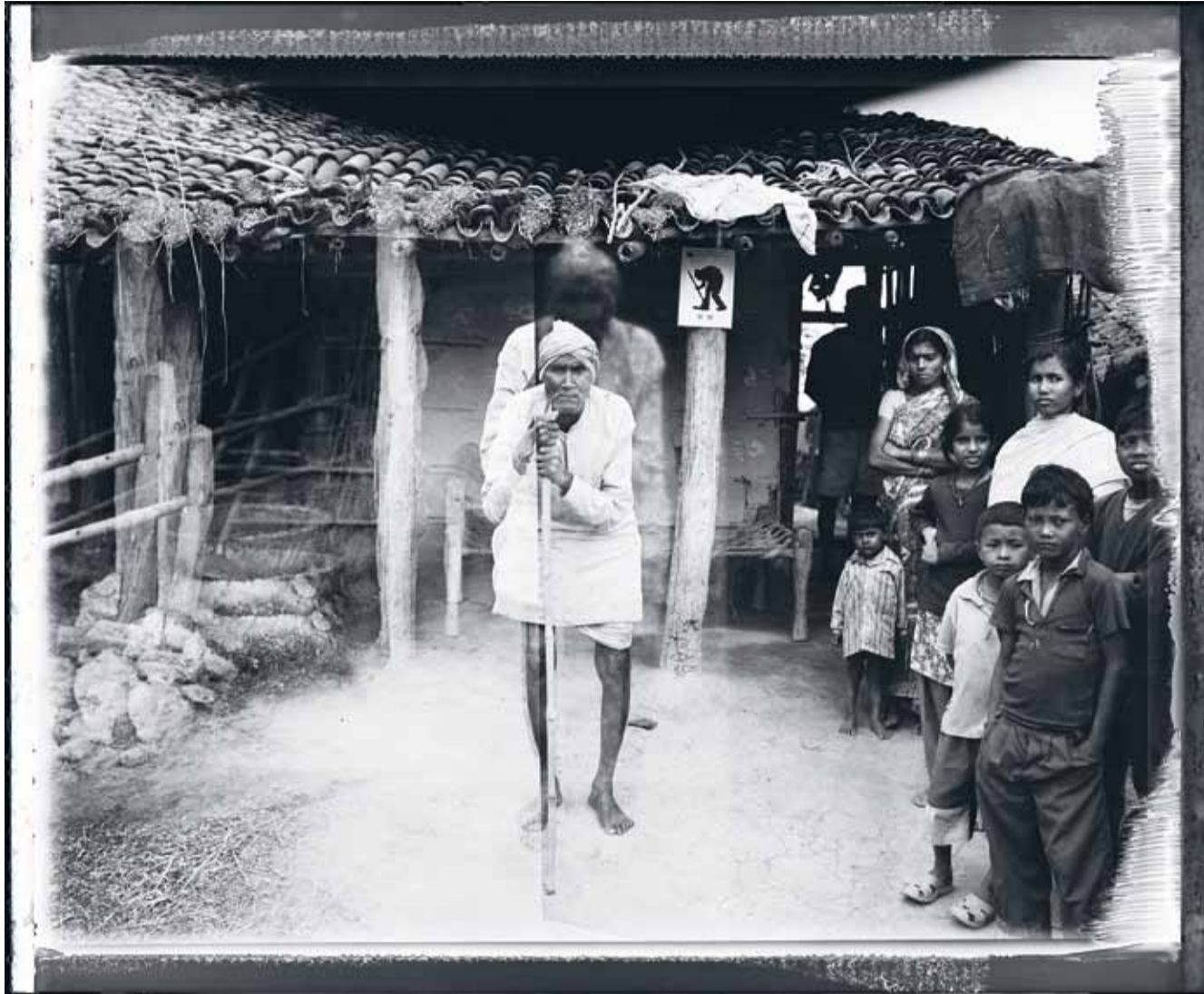
























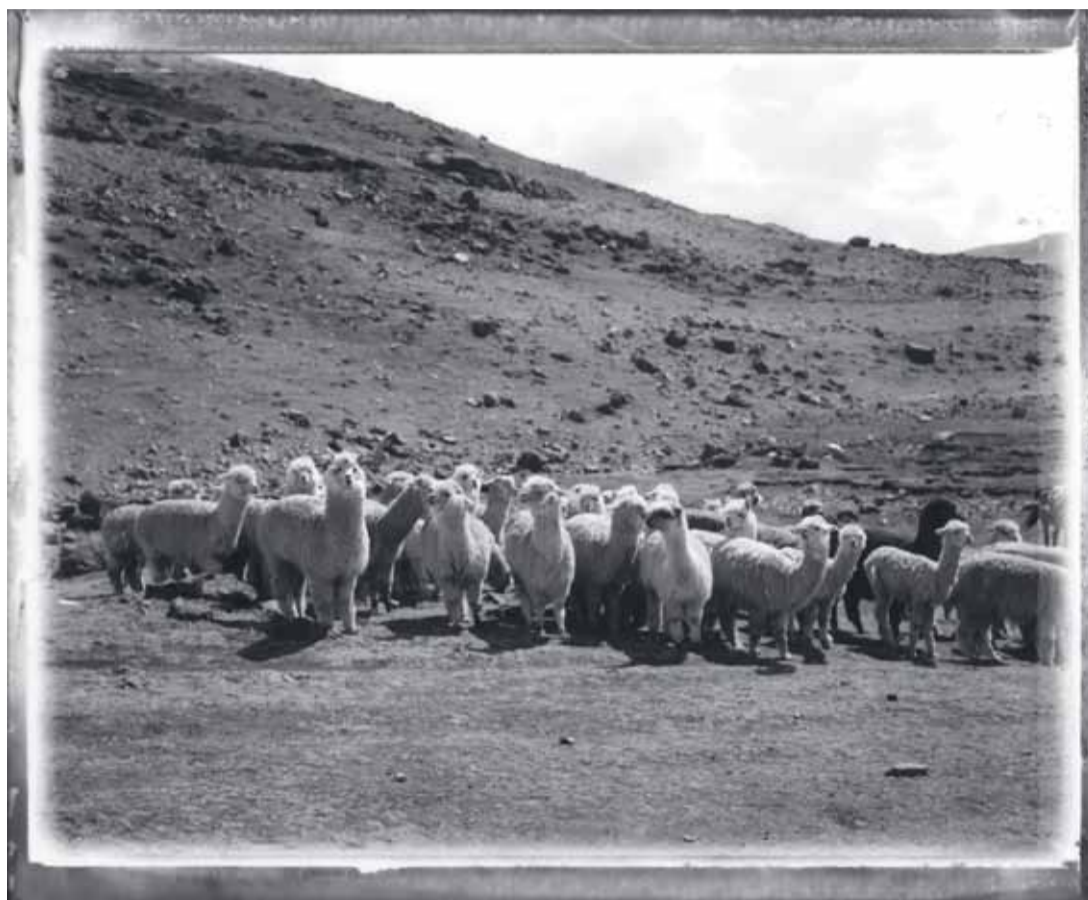














A final word from Oxfam...

We're extremely proud to have Helena Christensen as an Oxfam Ambassador and hope you've enjoyed looking at her stunning collection of photos from Africa, Asia and South America.

These photos were taken in support of GROW, an Oxfam campaign for a world where everyone always has enough to eat. By documenting the devastating impact of changing weather patterns on some of the world's poorest communities, the photos reflect an extremely uncertain future. They also show how a changing climate affects millions of people at a most basic level, every day.

That's the how. Now for the why.

Behind the GROW campaign, there's a simple set of beliefs at work. A belief that it's unacceptable for one in seven of us to go to bed hungry tonight. A belief that no-one should be forced to drink contaminated water. A belief that no mother should ever have to choose which of her children to send to school. And above all, a belief that a changing climate is no good reason for any of this – especially not when we can do something about it.

Oxfam is doing something about it. With the help of our supporters, we're creating gardens to grow food in dry, barren landscapes. We're helping drought-hit livestock herders find new ways to feed their families by giving them the tools and training they need to fish. We're providing people with seeds strong enough to flourish even when the rain doesn't fall.

But on its own, it's not enough.

What the world's poorest communities really need is for governments to take the decisions necessary to combat a changing climate and support those affected by it. Only then can we make sure that people like those you've seen in these photos don't become the victims of a global meltdown.

Visit www.oxfam.org.uk/grow to find out how you can help.

