THE HUMAN SPIRIT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOWARD G. BUFFETT

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Countries represented in this book.

Cuba

Democratic Republic of Congo Afghanistan Russia Kyrgyzstan Ecuador Rwanda Algeria Lesotho Liberia Senegal Angola Egypt Armenia El Salvador Sierra Leone Libya Bangladesh Somalia England Madagascar Belarus Equatorial Guinea Malawi South Africa South Sudan Belize Eritrea Malaysia Benin Ethiopia Mali Sudan Bhutan France Mauritania Swaziland Bolivia Mexico Georgia Syria Mozambique Bosnia Ghana Tajikistan Brazil Namibia Tanzania Guatemala Burkina Faso Haiti Nepal The Gambia Burundi Honduras Nicaragua Togo India Cameroon Niger Tunisia Central African Republic Turkey Iran Nigeria Chad Pakistan Uganda Iraq Chile Papua New Guinea United States of America Israel China Italy Vietnam Paraguay Colombia Yemen Ivory Coast Peru Poland Zambia Comoros Japan

Romania

Kenya



 $Top \ Left: Jeanne\ O'Donnell; \ Bottom\ Left: Laura\ Parker; \ Top\ Right: Ann\ Kelly; \ Middle\ Right: Shannon\ Sedgwick\ Davis; \ Bottom\ Right: Cesar\ Neyoy, \ Bajo\ El\ Sole$

IN MANY WAYS, THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS BETTER OFF NOW THAN IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO.

The quality of life has improved for millions of people with better health care, reduced child mortality, and longer life expectancy in many areas of the world. However, these benefits are not equally distributed, leaving significant challenges for about half of the world's population. The gap between poverty and wealth has continued to increase, further exacerbating the inequity between those who live well and those who suffer. There are no easy answers to this increasing discrepancy and the difficult challenges it presents. Solving these problems will be a long and complex undertaking.

I try to remain an optimist in a world that is full of skepticism. In good conscience, I cannot put a facade on what I have seen and experienced. The world is a fragile existence for many people. But it is also important to avoid emotionally marginalizing people by presenting their conditions as if they have no dignity or pride. There are tens of millions of people who live in circumstances they did not choose and cannot change. I believe it is wrong to expect them to accept this fate; it is worse to ignore their circumstances.

The human spirit often seems strongest when under threat or siege. If you cannot feed your family or if you cannot access basic health services to save your child's life, you live under threat. If you are trapped in a world with no hope for change, you are under siege. When I walk into the world of those shown in this book, these are the circumstances I see. I could not imagine that they would smile, yet often they embrace me. This is the true human spirit—enduring and courageous. This is the source of my optimism.

The purpose of this book is to share my experiences in the hope that knowledge and awareness will lead to change. Change is the only hope some people cling to each day of their lives. If we cannot take on this challenge, then who will help turn hope into reality?

While making these photographs and talking to hundreds of people, I have realized that the human race possesses an amazing ability to join together in difficult times. These are difficult times for some three billion people in the world; it is time to show our character and determination to make change happen for those who do not have the means to do it for themselves.

These images reflect the past 30 years of travel to over 150 countries. They include farmers, refugees, soldiers, volunteers and nomads. Through this journey I have met some amazing people, I have made friends and I have learned to respect the cultures of other countries. This is my effort to share some of those experiences.

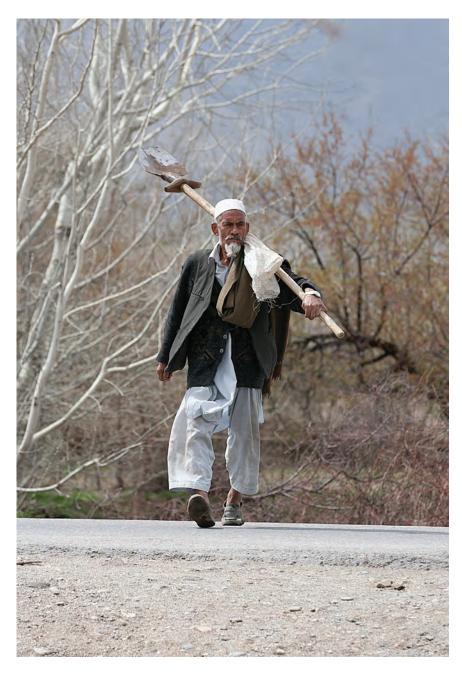


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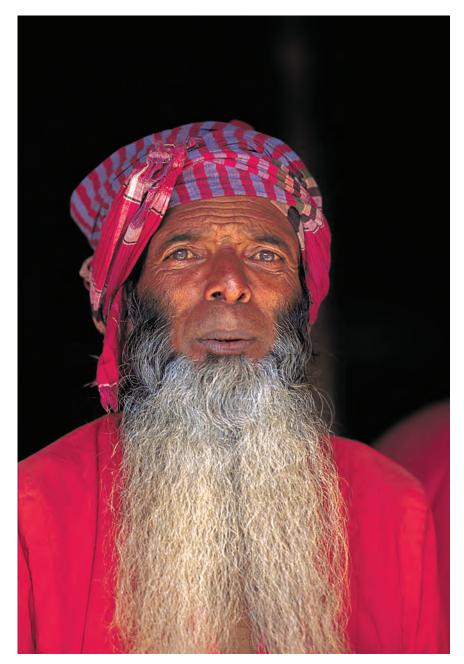
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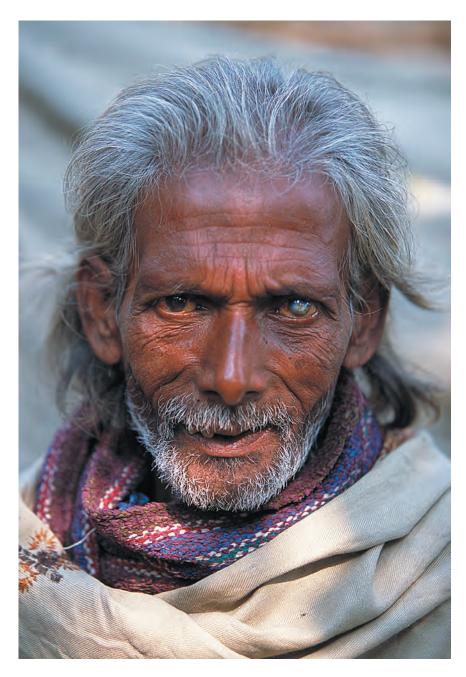
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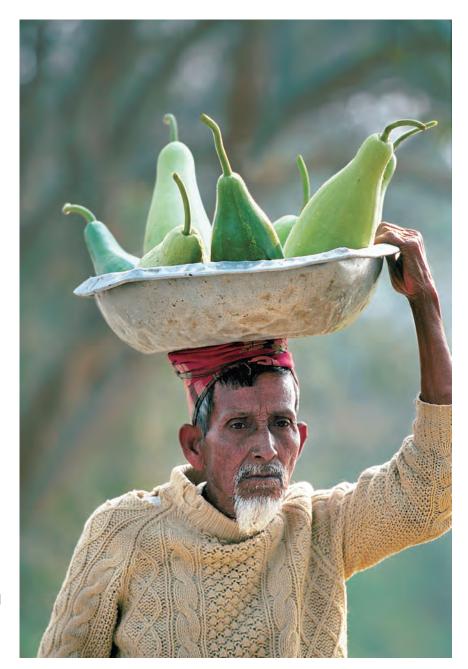
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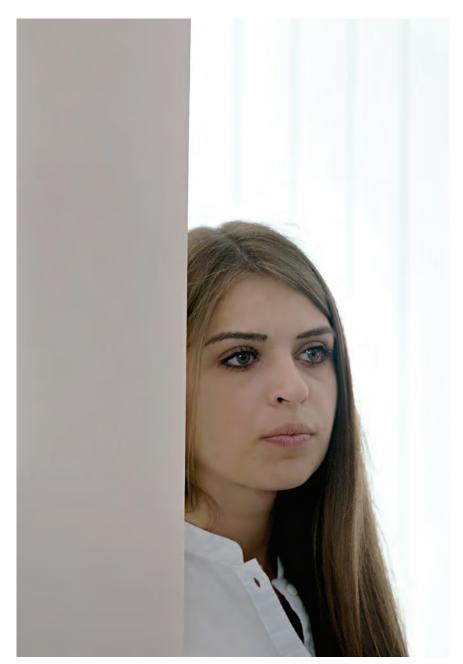
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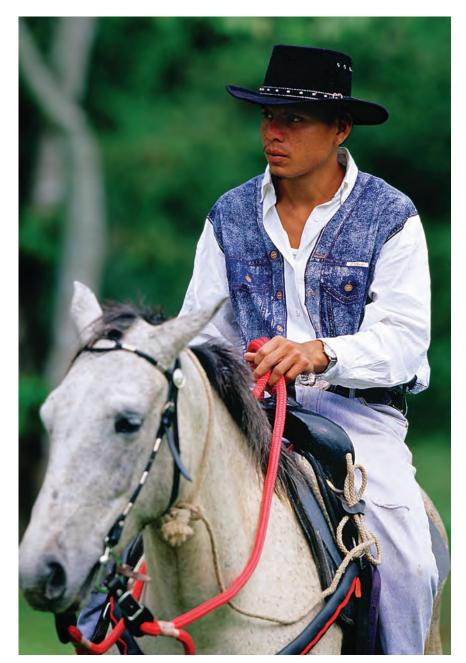
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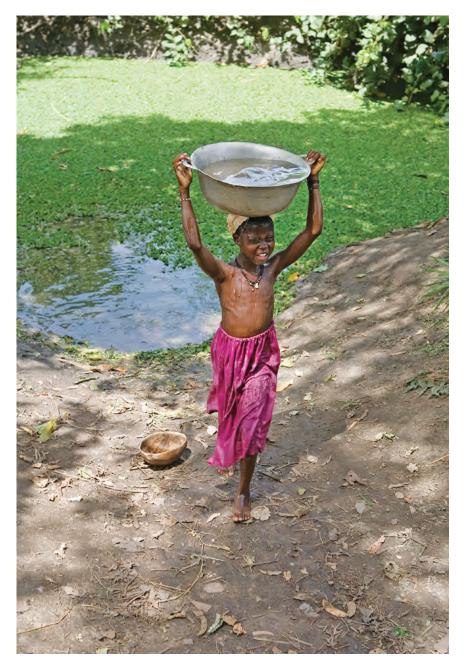
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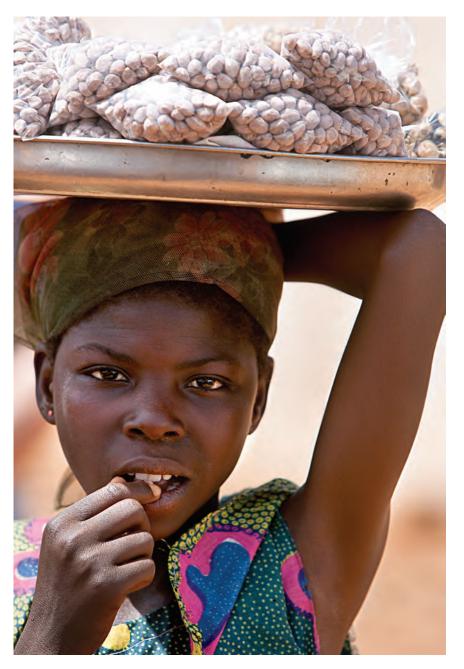
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CAMEROON



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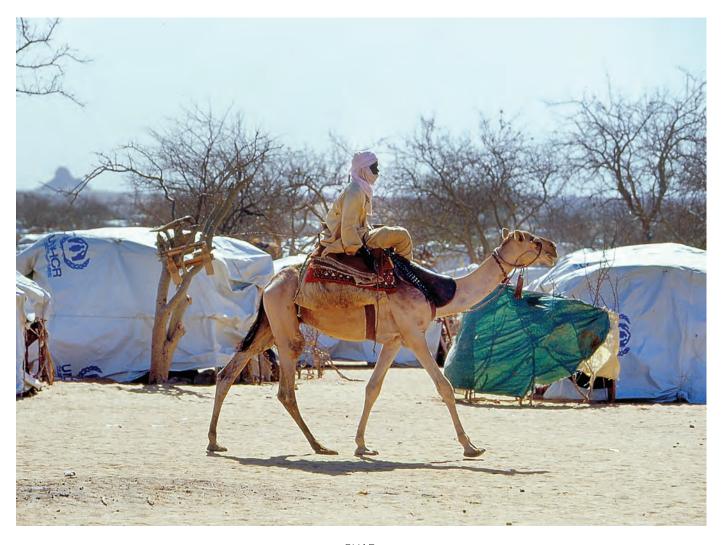
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



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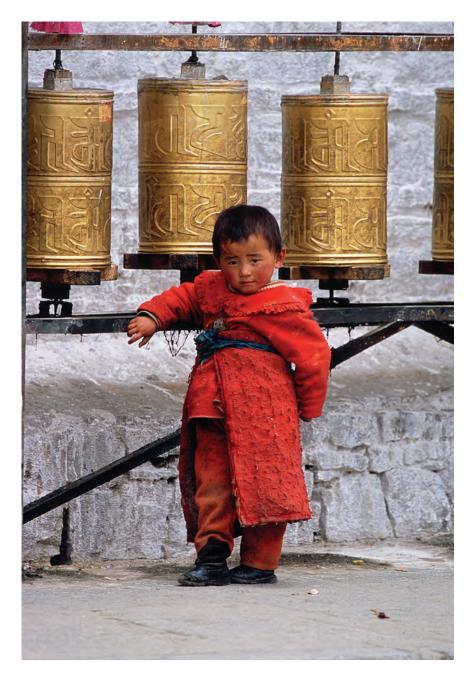
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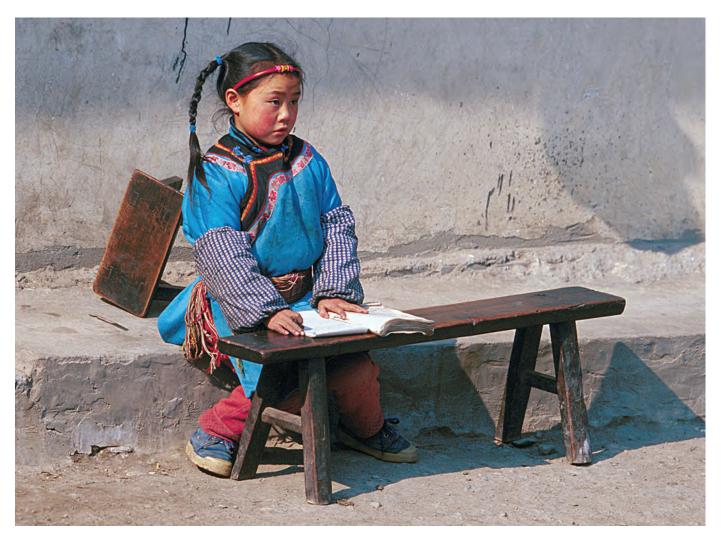
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COLOMBIA



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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



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ECUADOR



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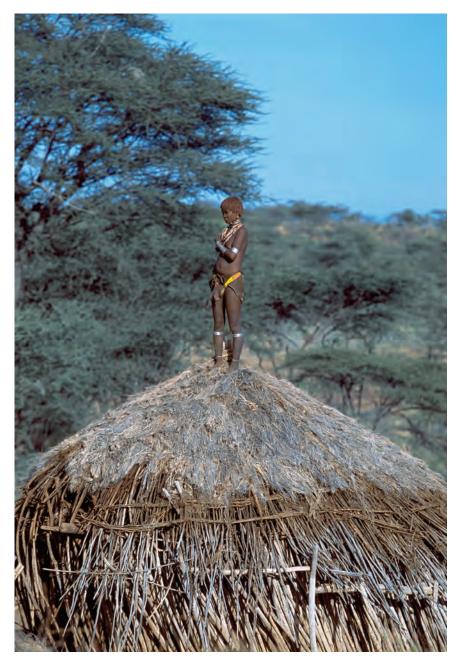
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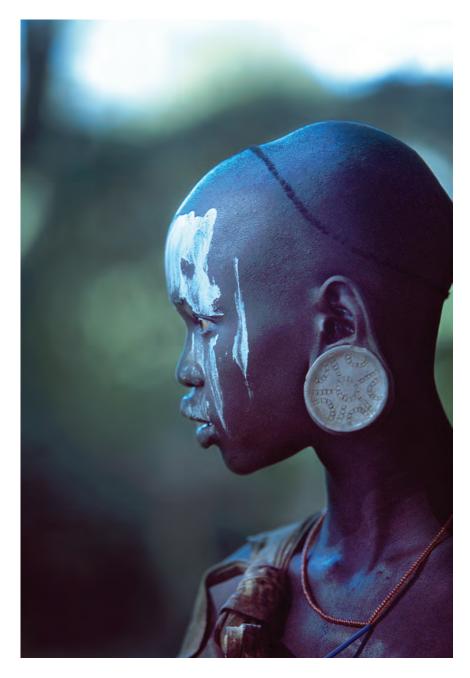
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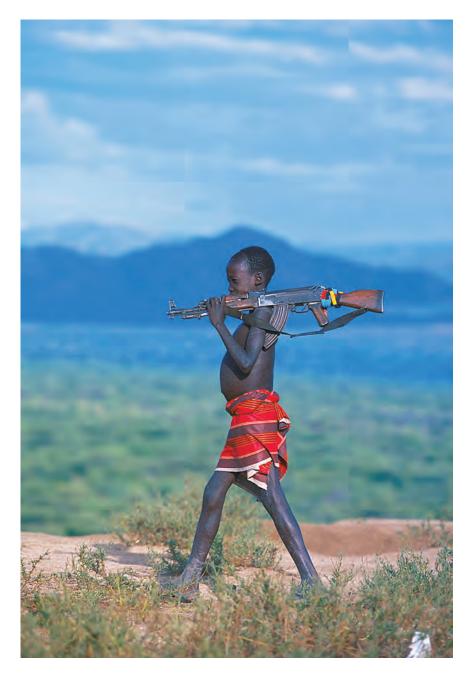


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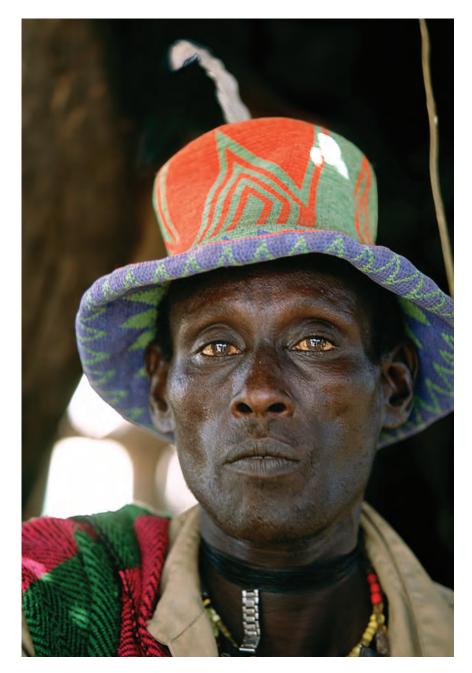
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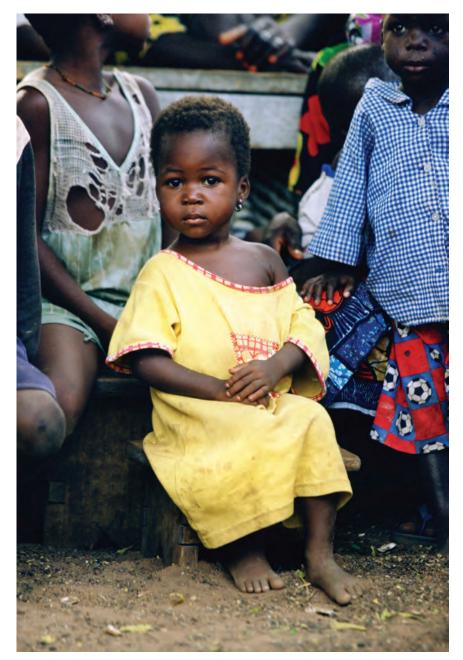
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GEORGIA



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GHANA



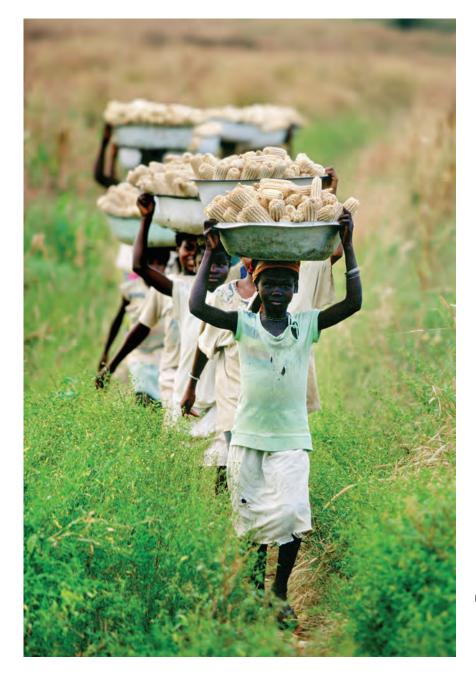
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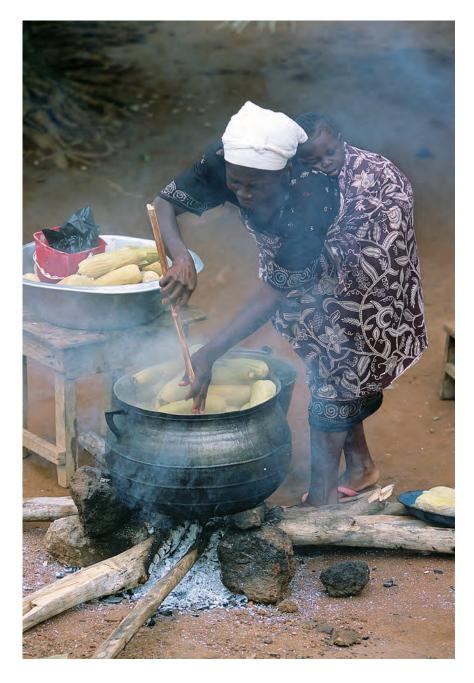
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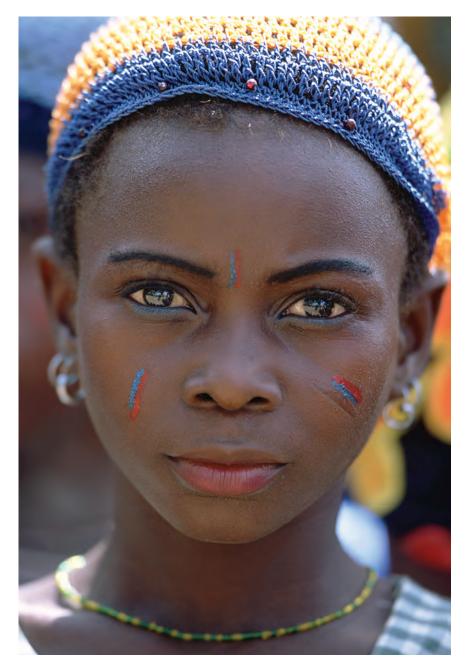
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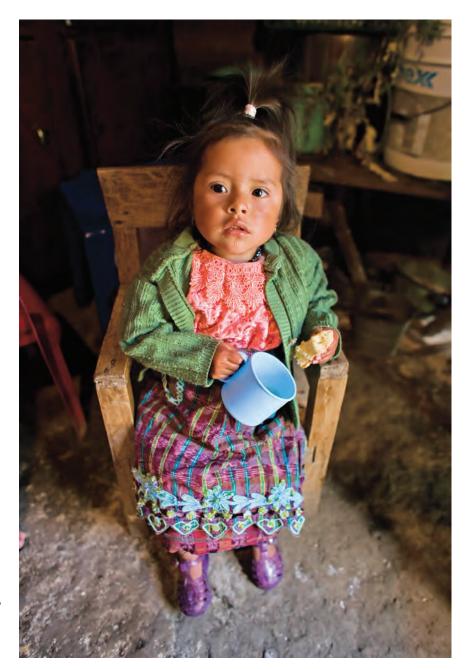
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GUATEMALA



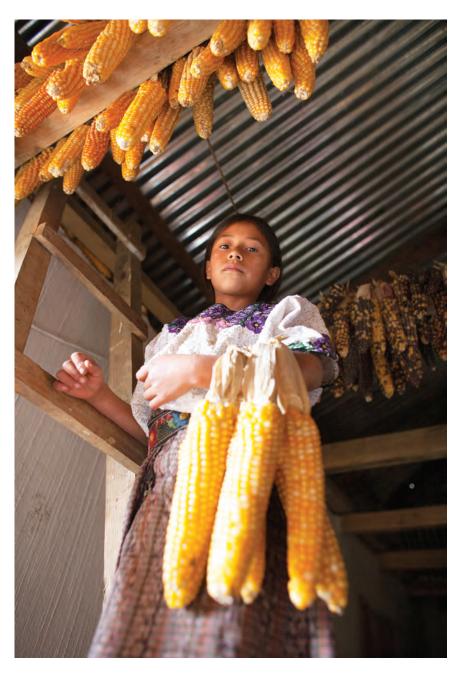
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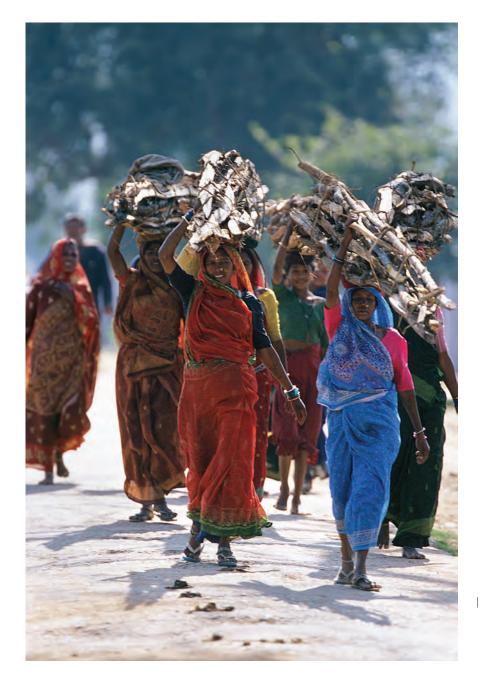
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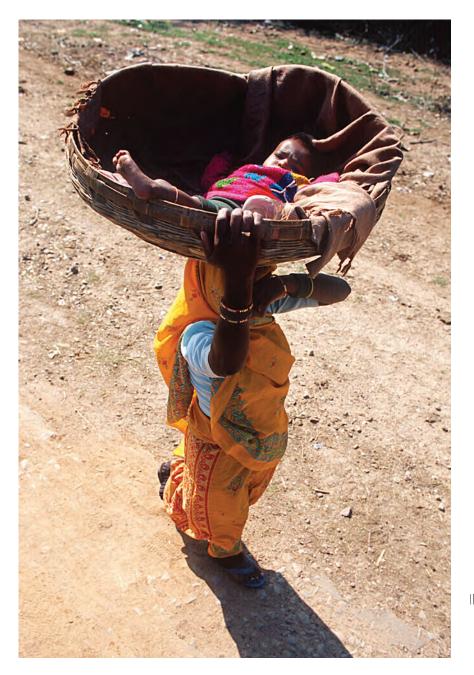
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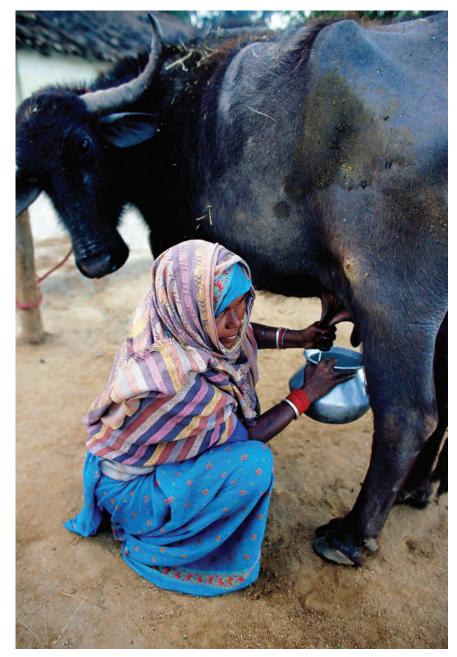


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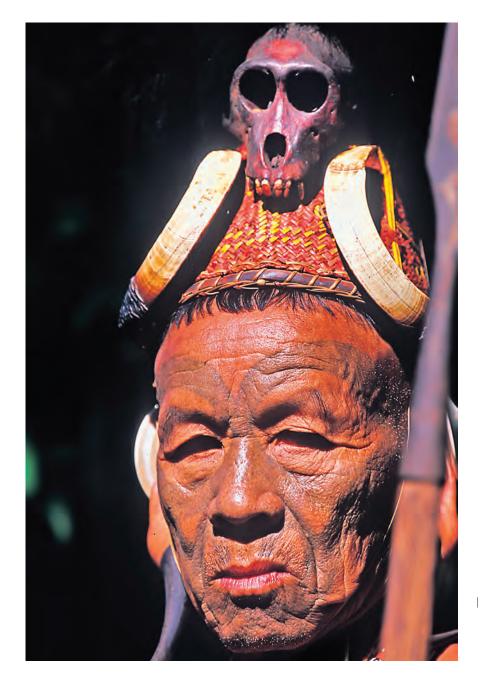
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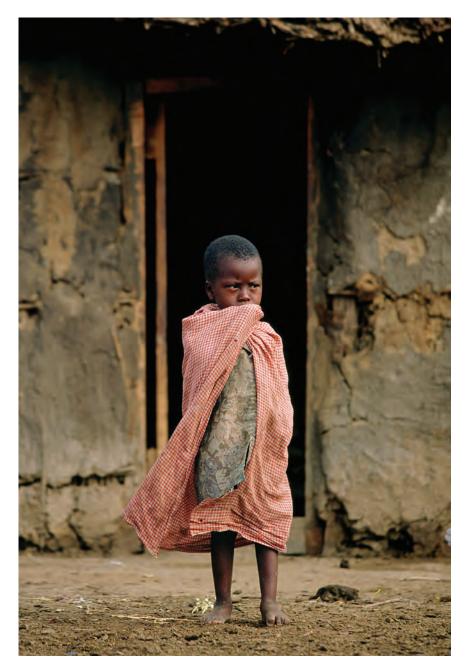
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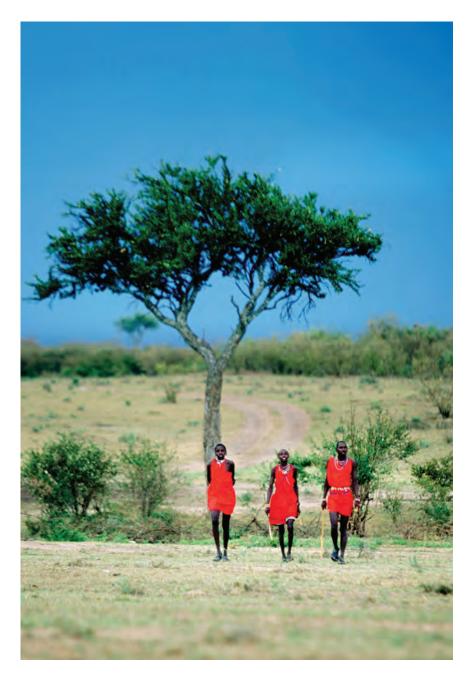
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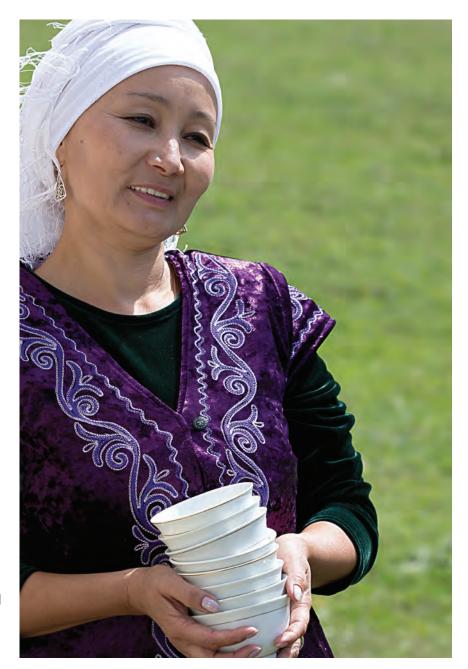
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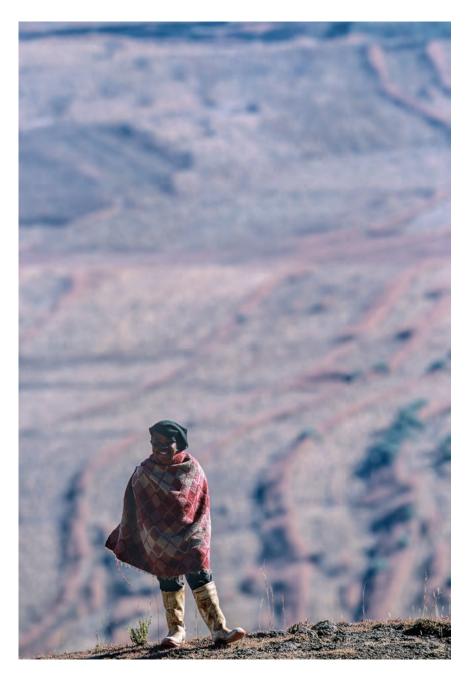
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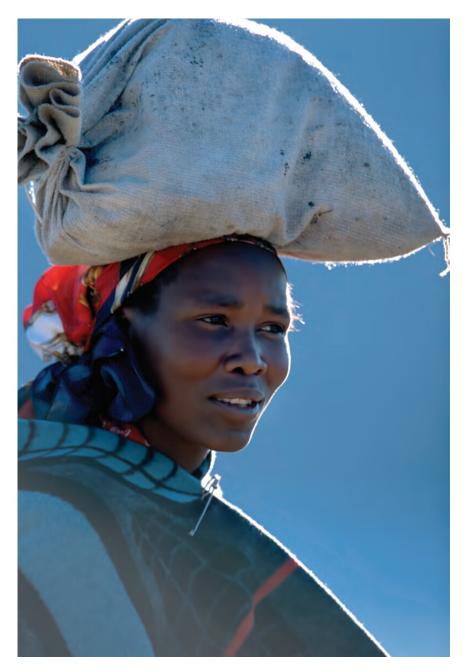
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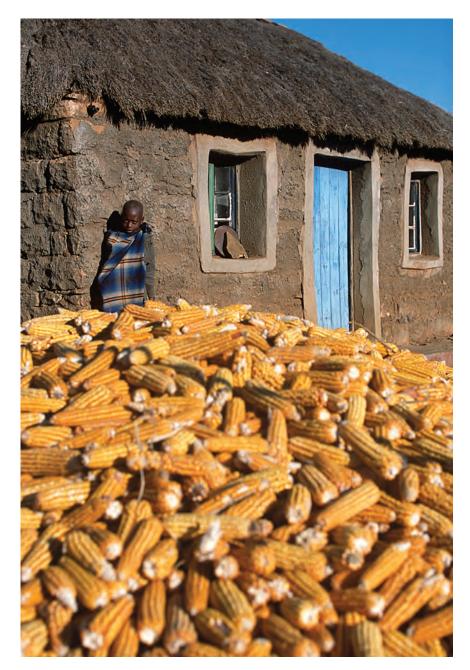
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LIBERIA



LIBYA



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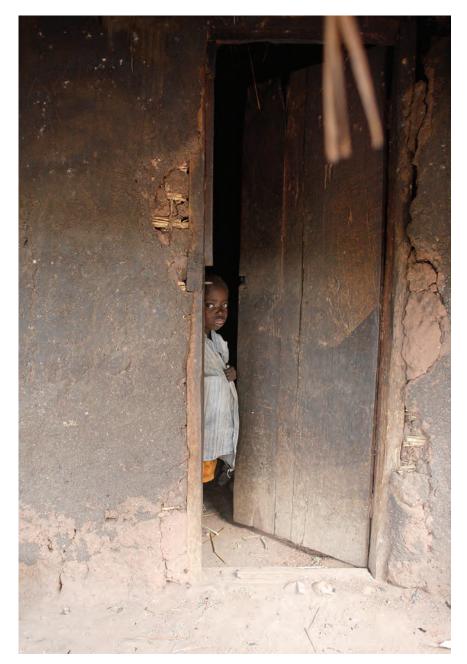
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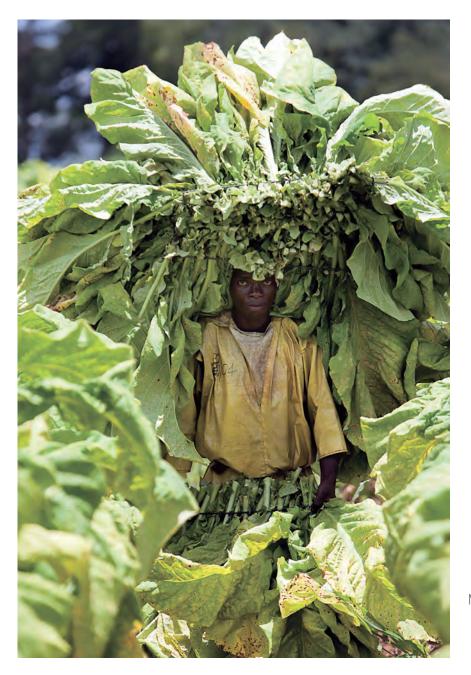
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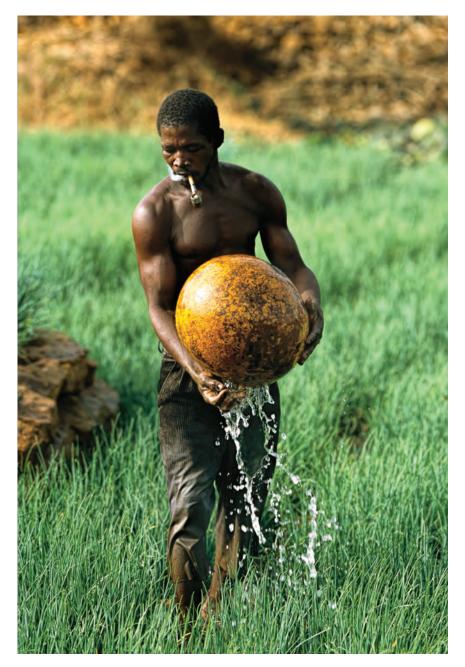
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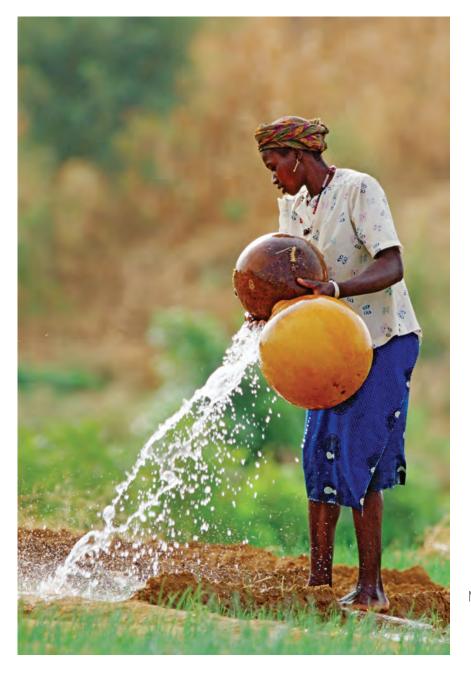
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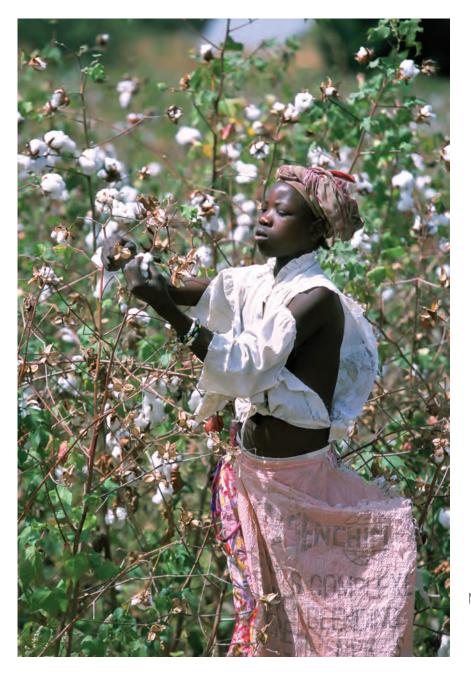
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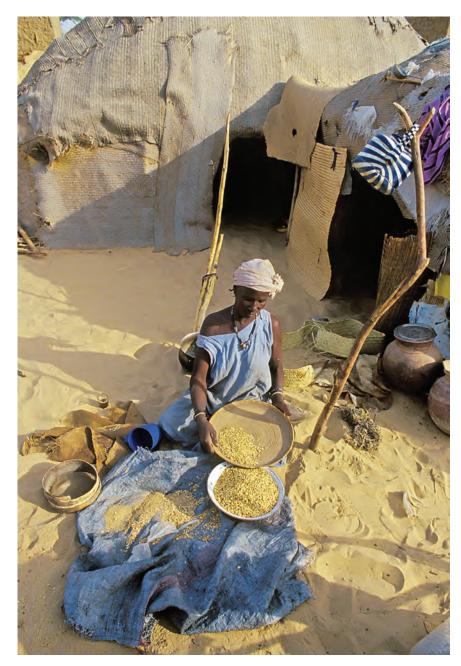


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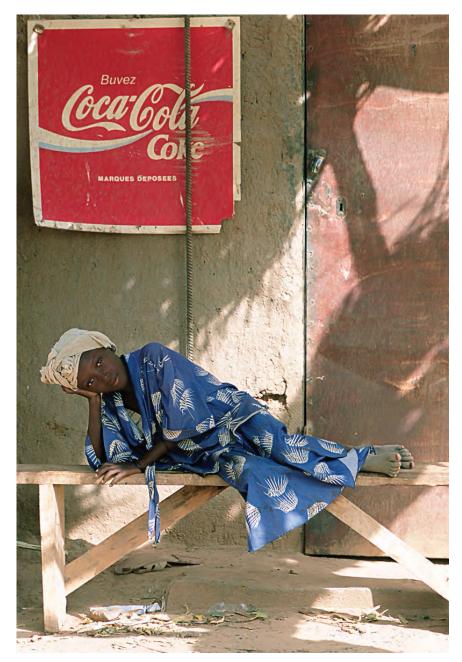
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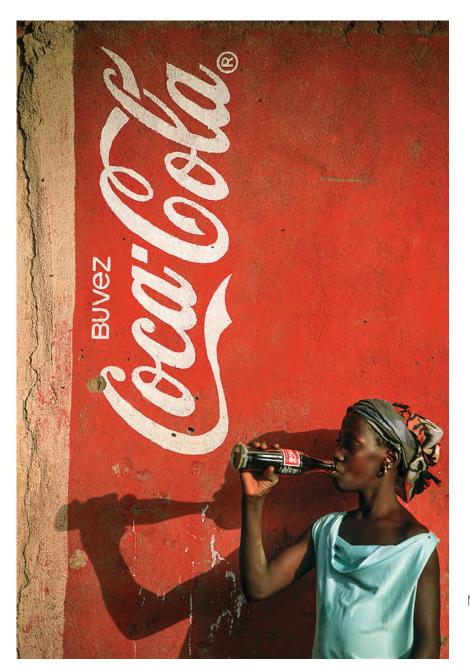


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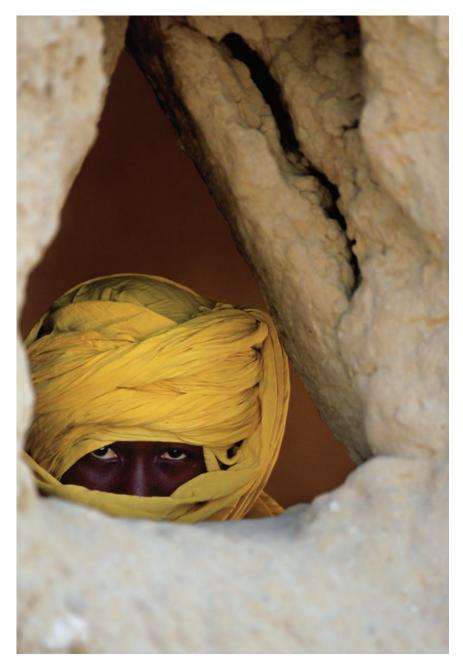




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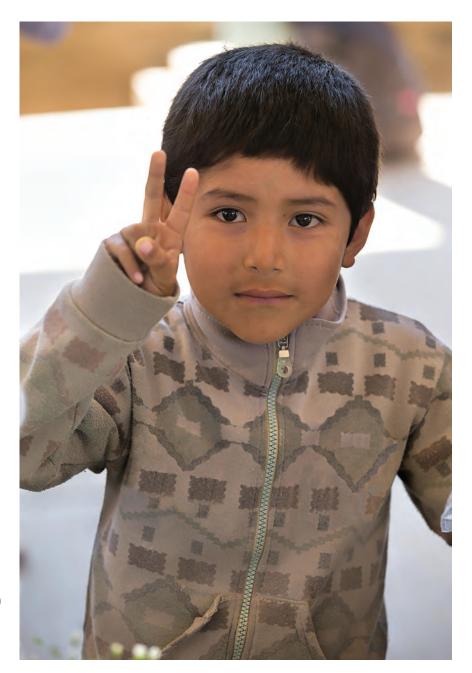




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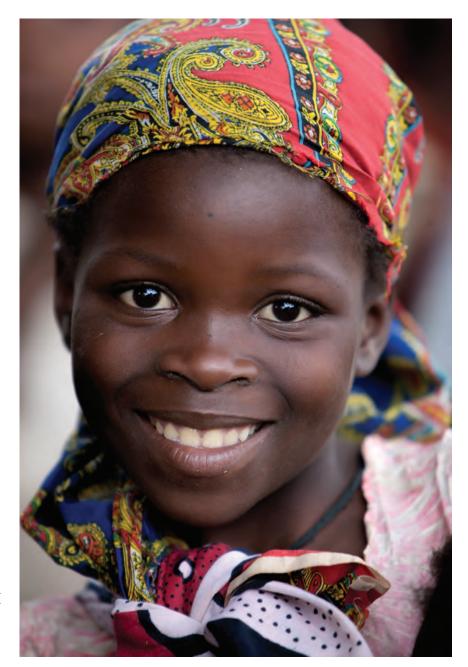
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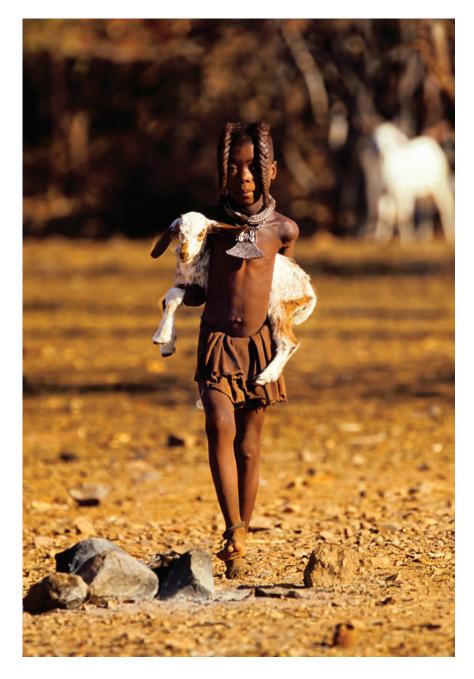
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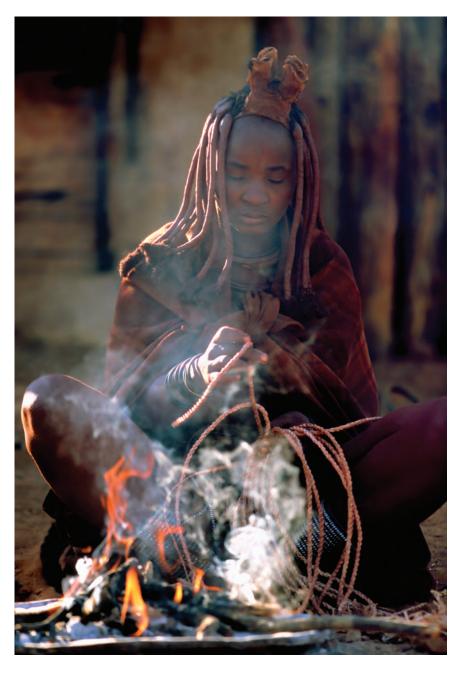
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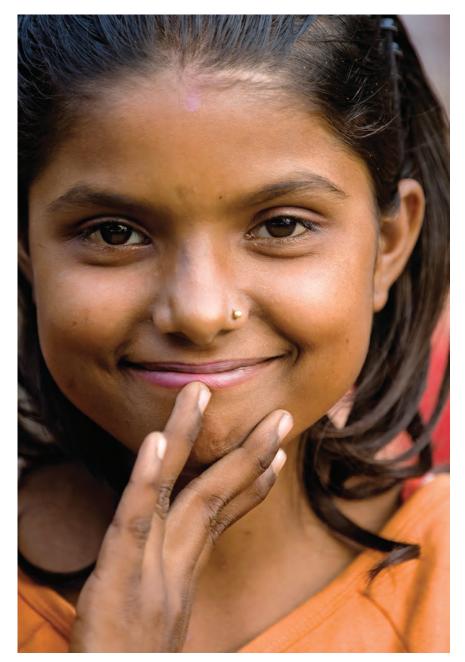
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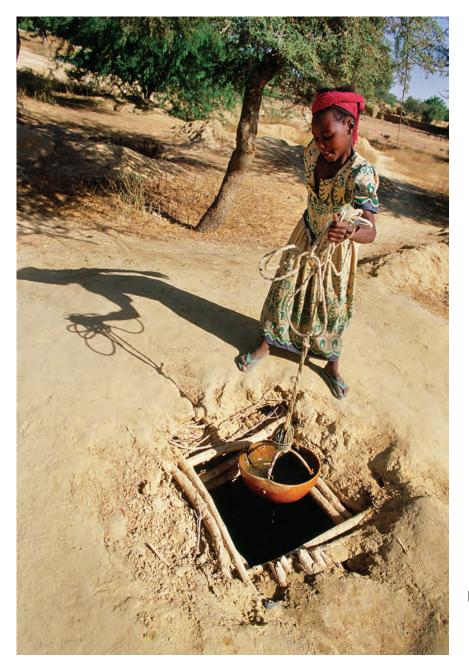
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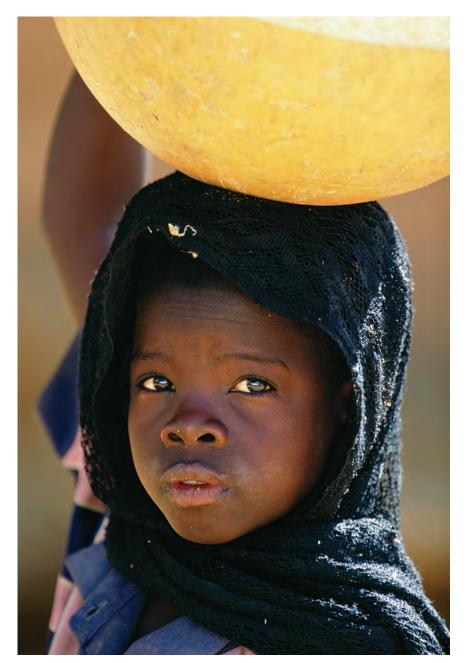
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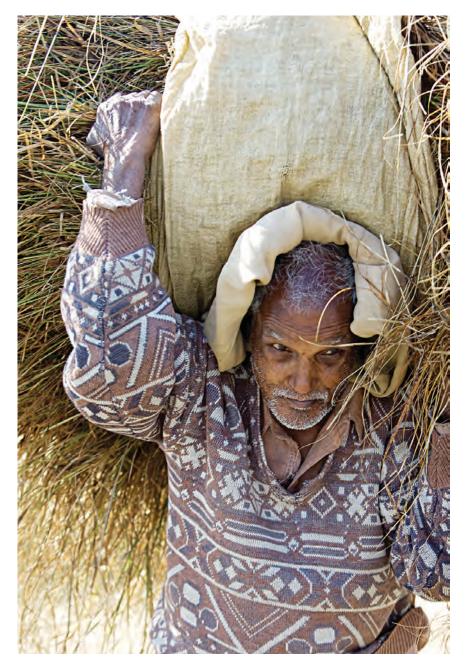
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PAKISTAN



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA



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PARAGUAY



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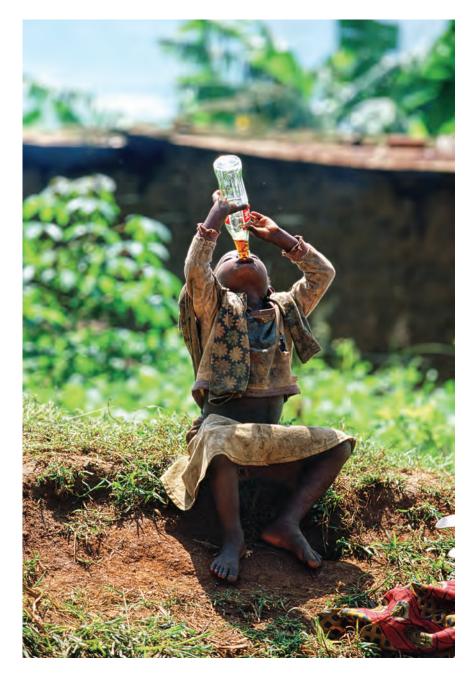
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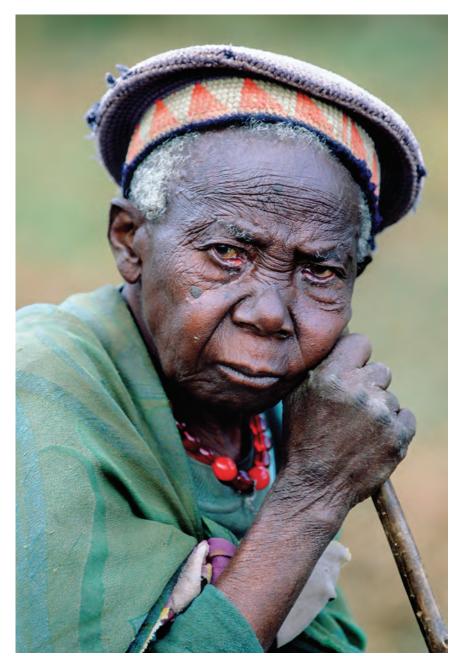
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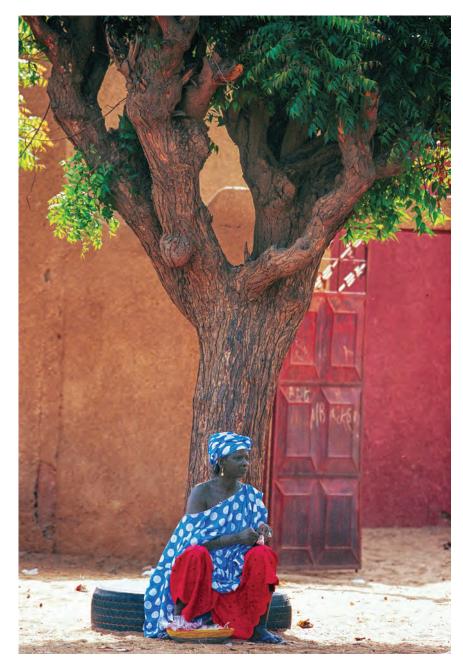
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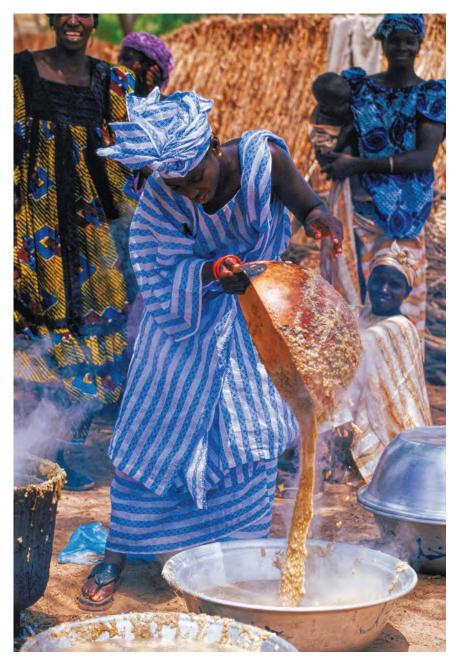
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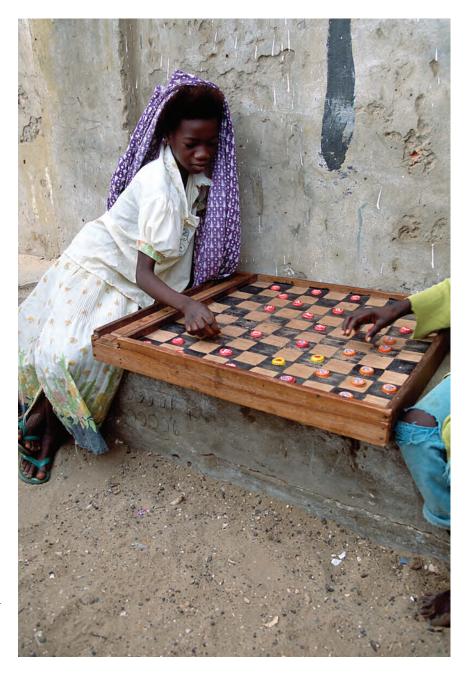
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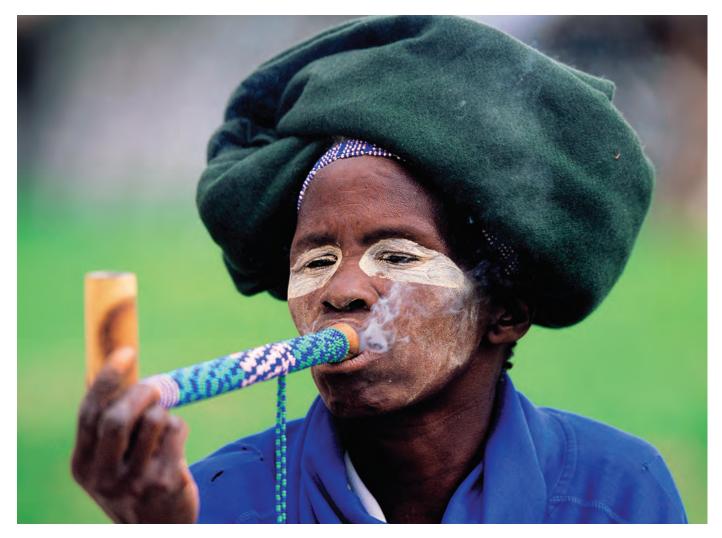
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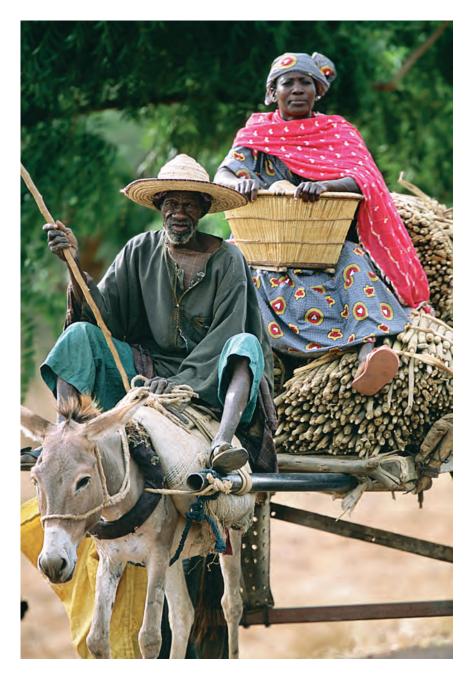
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SOMALIA



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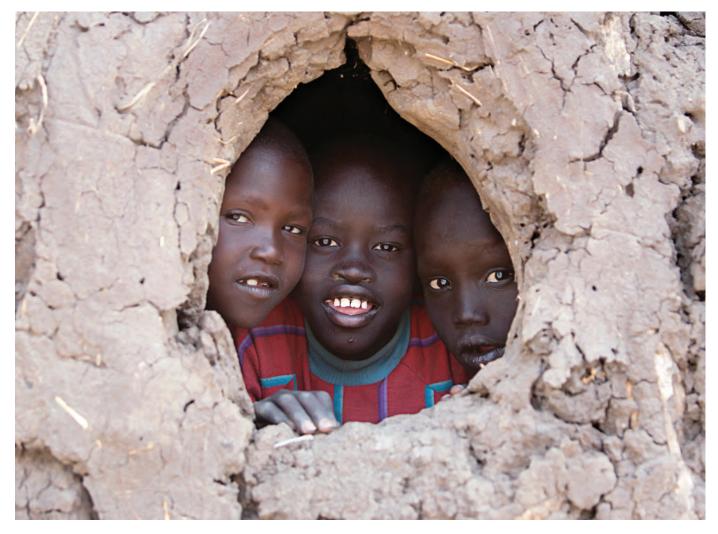
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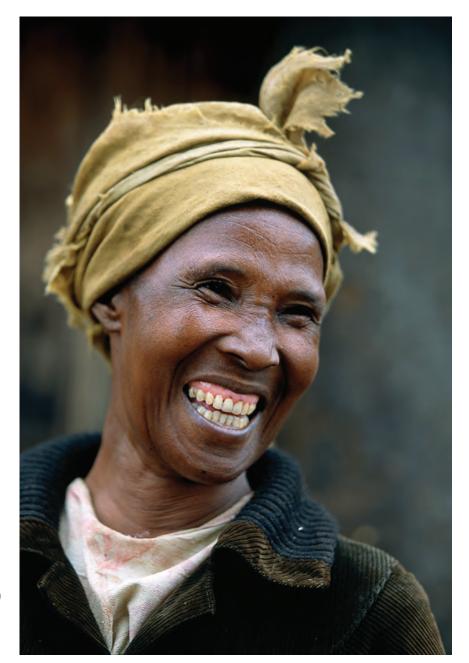
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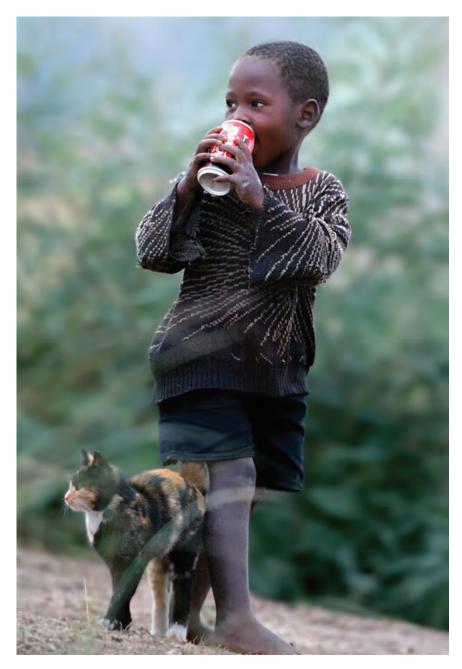
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SYRIA



TAJIKISTAN



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THE GAMBIA



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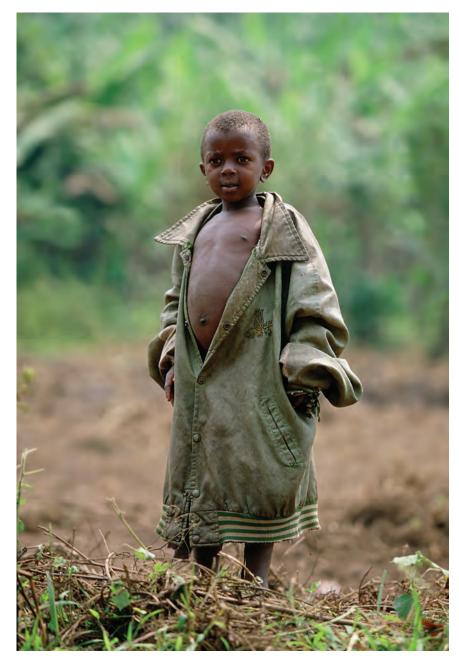
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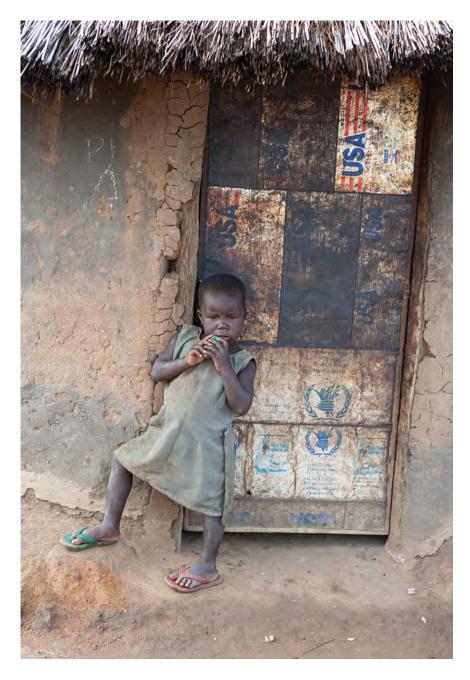
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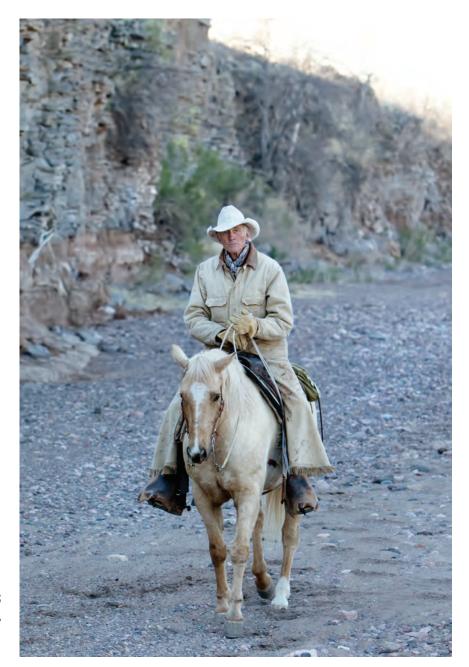
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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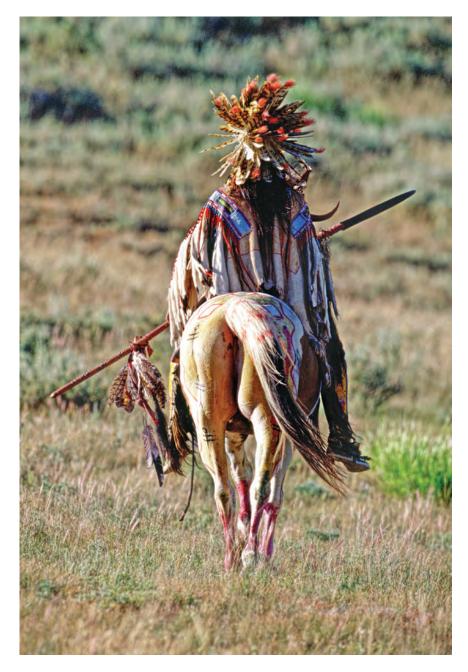
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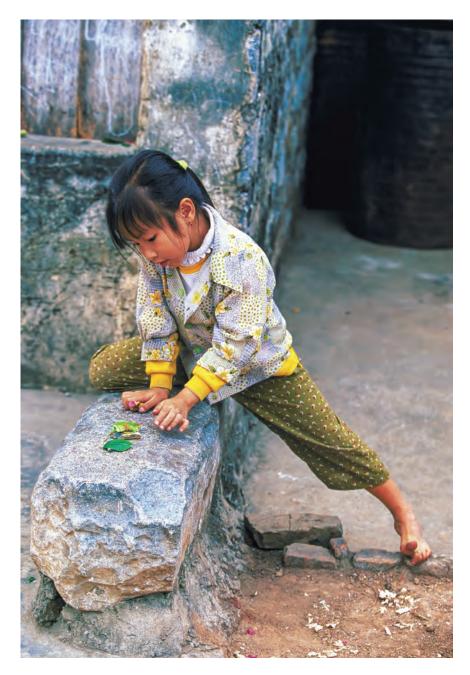
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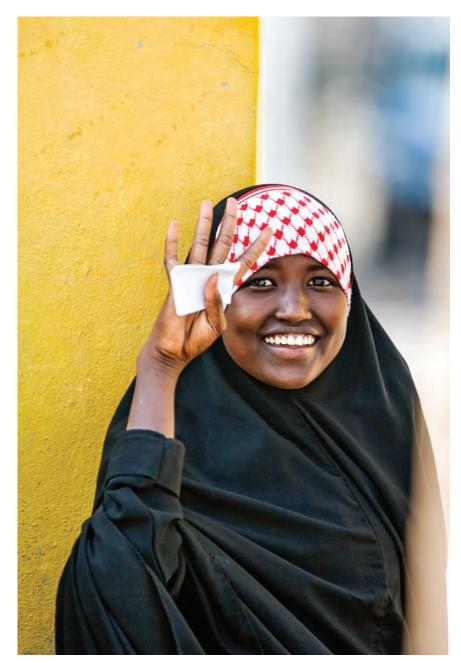
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YEMEN



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ZAMBIA

IN MEMORY OF LT. COLONEL WILLIAM HOLMBERG

