

# DOCUMENTARY FILM

Since 2005, IMS has worked to secure that documentary filmmaking contributes to social and political change and freedom of expression in development countries and conflict areas.

We are proactively supporting training, production and distribution. Increased professionalism in the local film environments is key to the programme.

IMS aims to have:

- Improved quality of documentary film production.
- Direct support to development, production and distribution of documentary films that are focusing on topics of public interest and covers these topics in a professional and ethical way.
- Networking among filmmakers regionally and internationally.
- Key film institutions and TV channels contributing to the dissemination of documentaries.

## RESULTS

- Two particularly successful documentary films were released in 2016 with support from IMS: *The War Show (Syria)* and *Last Men in Aleppo (Syria)*. Both have won international awards, been screened worldwide and sold for TV distribution globally.
- IMS has supported more than 150 documentaries and some 20 co-productions with Nordic production companies and thus facilitated a platform for alternative voices and views of developments in societies that are usually overlooked or more difficult to cover by mainstream media.
- IMS has promoted female directors in the film industry of the countries of engagement. Securing that the role and opportunities of talented female filmmakers is enhanced.
- Film-students from Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia and Egypt have taken part in masterclasses and exchange programmes at the National Film School of Denmark, leading to greater international exposure and improved technical skills.



### LAST MEN IN ALEPPO (SYRIA)

The World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival 2017.

After five years of war in Syria, Aleppo's remaining residents prepare themselves for a siege. Khalid, Subhi and Mahmoud, founding members of The White Helmets, have remained in the city to help their fellow citizens-and experience daily life, death, struggle and triumph in a city under fire. The film opened Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival on the anniversary of the conflict in Syria, 15 March 2017.



### SEPIDEH (IRAN)

Nominated for Best Documentary at Sundance Film Festival and International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam.

Sepideh wants to become an astronaut. She spends her nights exploring the secrets of the universe, while her family will do anything to keep her on the ground. Society's expectations to the young Iranian women do not include Sepideh's ambitions; the movie thus represents the fight of gender stereotypes in a rural and isolated part of Iran.