

Drawing on the experience of IMS' engagement with documentary film to date, these are the guiding criteria to aim for when applying for funding through IMS' programme for Documentary Film and Visual Storytelling. IMS supports development, production and distribution of documentary films and visual storytelling that:

- Cover topics of public interest in a professional and ethical way;
- Priority is given to productions focusing on issues of gender equality, diversity, current affairs, and human rights;
- Furthermore, priority is given to productions that seek to have an impact on the public debate and raise awareness on issues of a political, social or cultural nature;
- Documentary films should be produced or co-produced by filmmakers from the MENA region;
- Individual filmmakers and/or companies need experience from at least one or more previous audio-visual productions in order to obtain support from IMS. IMS works solely with professional or semi-professional filmmakers;
- Recipients of funding need a clear sense of their audience and an idea of how they are to distribute stories to their intended audiences;
- Full-length production formats are not necessarily an asset. Shorter formats are encouraged.

*Examples on two documentaries, IMS has funded:*



#### 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.



#### 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.