

Biography:

Pasha Bakhtiar, Managing Partner, Investors and Partnerships, Willow Impact Investors

Born in Geneva, Pasha spent his early years between Switzerland, the UK and the United States. After graduating from University in Washington DC with a Double Major in International Relations and Economics he returned to Switzerland to complete his military service in the elite infantry troops. He subsequently joined the Center for Applied Studies in International Negotiation during which he spent much time in Ethiopia working on issues related to improving agricultural practices in Sub Saharan Africa.

Deciding to move on to the private sector, Pasha started with Lombard Odier & Cie in 1998, where he focused mainly on macro economic and equity research in Southern Europe. Charged with developing the equities coverage for Latin America, he spent time based in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. There, Pasha was confronted directly with the social and economic issues of the developing world and his passion for the economics of development was kindled.

In the early 2000s Pasha joined Sourcingparts.com as their head of business development. Through growing the business in the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, he gained a first hand understanding of the challenges faced by economies in transition.

After his MBA, Pasha returned to Lombard Odier & Cie as a Vice President of the special affairs team that managed the bank's largest and most complex clients, including the analysis and advisory of their Private Equity portfolios. He was subsequently asked by the bank's Partners to open, grow and head their office in the Middle East in Dubai. As Managing Director, his responsibilities included capital raising, portfolio management and structuring innovative solutions for investors. In 2007 he received a "Rising Star of Wealth Management" award from Institutional Investor in New York.

He left the world of banking in September 2010 to found Willow Impact Investors along with 4 other Partners.

Pasha has been honoured as a Young Global Leader in 2012 by the World Economic Forum in recognition of his leadership and vision in the field of impact investing. He speaks seven languages, holds a Private Pilots License and enjoys ski touring and long distance triathlons. Pasha has a BA from Georgetown University and an MBA from INSEAD. He lives with his wife, son and daughter in Dubai.