



---

**BASSEL HAMWI, FUND HEAD, IFC MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA FUND**

---

Bassel Hamwi is the Head of the IFC MENA Fund in IFC's Asset Management Company (AMC) which he joined in January 2014.

AMC is the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) private equity fund management business, managing third-party capital across funds that invest in IFC transactions in emerging markets. As of July 2018, AMC had approximately US\$10.1 billion of assets under management in 13 funds. Bassel has led the team which successfully raised \$162.4 million from five limited partners in the Middle East and Asia and has recruited and mentored the team of professionals who manage the fund globally. The Fund has reviewed more than 110 deals in the region and already invested in Souq.com, the region's first unicorn in the e-commerce space which has since been sold to Amazon, as well as in Network International, the leading payment processor in fintech, Apex International Energy, a \$500 million oil platform in Egypt, among others.

Prior to his appointment, Bassel was Founder and CEO of Bank Audi Syria. Bassel led the team which structured Bank Audi Syria and was responsible for its initial public offering which was 9.8 times oversubscribed. His team transformed the bank from a financial institution with an asset base of US\$50 million in 2005 to the biggest private lender in Syria with assets of US\$2 billion in 2010 (about 4% of the country's GDP). Bassel was also the Chairman of Audi Capital Syria, an investment company fully owned by Bank Audi. Bassel served as Deputy Chairman of the Damascus Securities Exchange, Syria's first stock market and was instrumental in its structuring and establishment. He is a founding member of the Young Presidents' Organization's (YPO) Levant Chapter and the Syrian-American Business Council among others. Prior to joining Bank Audi, Bassel spent 14 years with IFC in Washington DC and Cairo where he worked on investments in financial markets, project finance as well as advisory services. Bassel was in charge of a number of key direct investments for IFC in the Mashreq and GCC sub-regions, including the first leasing company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the first private bank in Syria. He also was IFC's resource on Islamic Finance and has written extensively on the subject.

Bassel is passionate about board governance, private equity, disruption and turnarounds. He has been an International Board Member of YPO since 2018 and sits on several other boards. He holds an MBA in International Finance and a BBA in Business Computer Information Systems and Organizational Management from the University of North Texas and is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School (HBS) Executive Education Program in Leadership as well as Singularity University. He has 29 years of experience in financial markets, banking, investing and management. He has been a contributing author to various business publications and quoted by the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and the New York Times.