

## **Aamer Sarfraz**

Aamer Sarfraz is a social entrepreneur and venture capitalist.

He is a Special Partner at Draper Associates, a leading early-stage Silicon Valley venture capital firm. The firm's well-known investments include Skype, Hotmail, Tesla and Baidu, in addition to several hundred others. He founded Draper Oakwood Technology Acquisition, a Nasdaq-listed investment platform, becoming one of the youngest founders of a Nasdaq-listed company. He was named to the Silicon Valley 2018 '40 under 40 list' by Silicon Valley Business Journal.

Previously, Aamer was a Managing Director at The Electrum Group UK LLP, a private equity firm, and led the group's international expansion across Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He started his career as an Analyst in the venture capital team at 3i Group plc.

He has a strong interest in the welfare of low-income farmers, who are often victims of exploitive supply chains. He is founder of Better Grain, a sustainable agriculture business working with over 15,000 smallholder farmers in Asia, providing them with training, tools, technology, and access to markets. As a result of the programme, farmer income has on average increased by 30%, water efficiency by 25%, and crop yields by 12%. He has launched initiatives providing free childcare for women farm workers (thereby reducing child labour) and free medical treatment during the harvest season to over 10,000 farmers and their families. Aamer also secured their crop offtake agreements, and today over 16 million packets of rice delivered to supermarkets across Europe comes from these farmers.

Aamer sits on several boards in the not-for-profit sector. He is currently a:

- Member, International Advisory Board, Texas A&M University;
- Member, Dean's Advisory Board, Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies;
- Member, Conservation Council at Panthera (the world's largest conservation organisation devoted exclusively to wild cats);
- Member of the Board of WWF Pakistan; and
- Member of the Strategy Group at Wolfson College Oxford.

The annual Sarfraz Pakistan Lecture at Oxford University is named in his honour, and brings together academics, journalists, students, and cultural commentators to engage with South Asian culture.

Previously, he was a member of the President's Circle at the Baylor College of Medicine, a member of the Mt Sinai School of Medicine Advisory Board, and a Trustee of the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Aamer has also been very involved in charity work in Pakistan, through his family's local foundation, the Fazaldad Institute. He created the Sunrise Equine Therapy program, which provides equine-assisted therapy to children with special needs, free of cost.