

*From a tragic past... to a hopeful future*



Dubai 14-18 October

## Digital Hope Project



*B-Gifted Foundation of Sierra Leone*

*1 Conversation that matters- 1 community worth belonging to.*



## Five days of showcasing technology



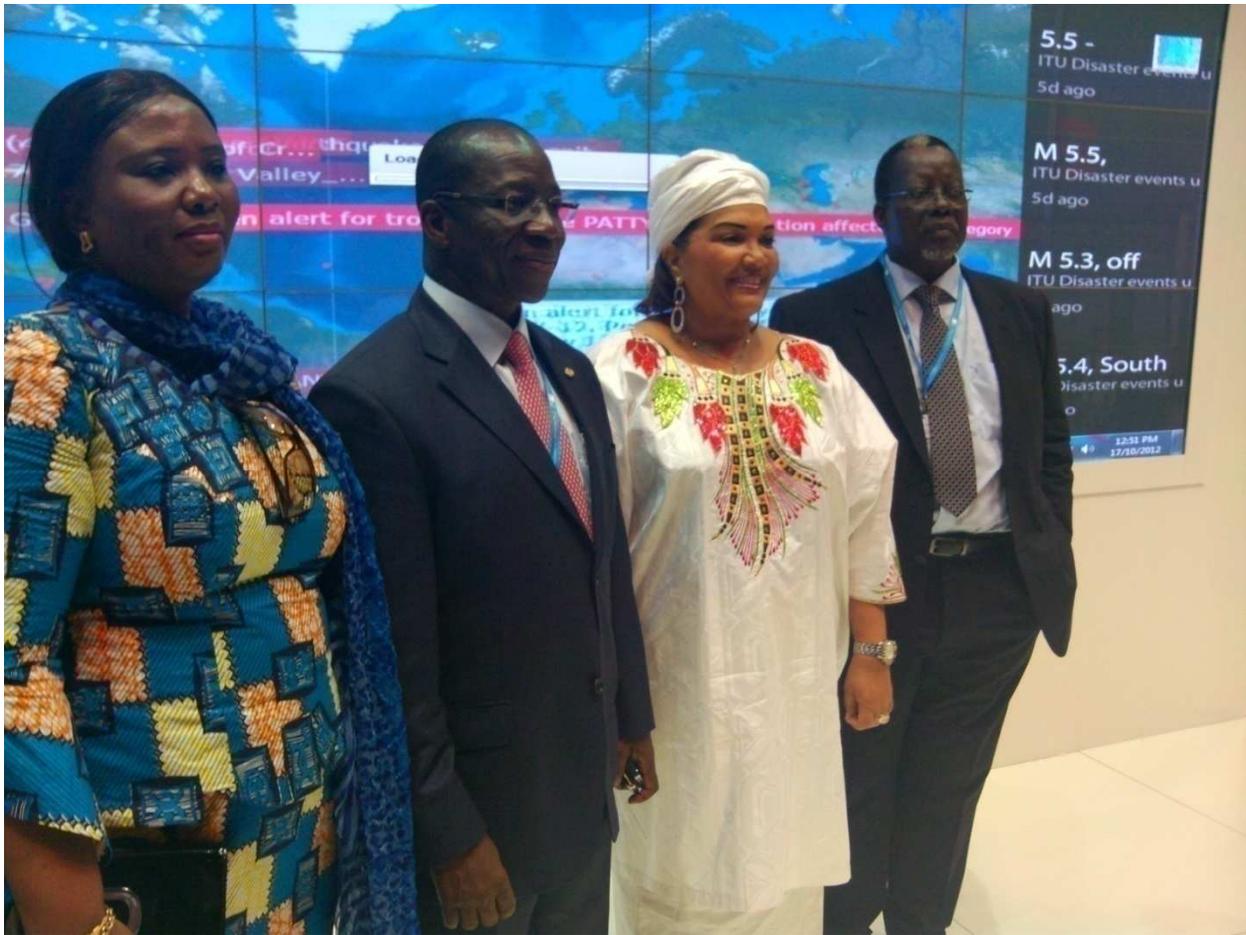
*Andrew Benson Greene  
Founder of B-Gifted  
Foundation in Sierra  
Leone and other young  
leaders met with the  
First Lady of Uganda at  
the ITU Telecom World  
in Dubai October 14<sup>th</sup> to  
18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*



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*Andrew Benson Greene  
met with Alcatel-Lucent  
Executive Vice President  
at the ITU Telecom  
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B-GIFTED Foundation was named at the behest & in honor of an eponymous peace activist ICT & human rights educator, who, over time, has used creativity & technology to buttress his growing corpus of groundbreaking peacemaking & culture-building endeavors.



Andrew Benson Greene Jr., B-GIFTED Founder & CEO, has already, by a relatively young age, achieved greater international exposure and distinction, speaking on behalf of children of armed conflict, than most other youth leaders in

the history of Sierra Leone, and perhaps throughout the World.

Established in December 2007, through the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs, the B-GIFTED is a nonprofit organization that uses creativity and technology to promote human rights (including women & children's rights), environmental justice, peace, prosperity and sustainable development for the people of Sierra Leone.

Our goals to alleviate poverty and to promote progress toward peace are achieved through multiple innovative approaches which aim to foster peace, human rights, social justice, global interaction and education for all people. These approaches include the promotion of legislature and the coordination of programming, such as interactive workshops on nonviolence and Peace Clubs in schools, which engage women and youth through technology and the creative arts.

B-GIFTED identifies & addresses challenging issues in a wide-range of creative & technological areas, in an effort to remain in line with the needs of the time, including issues related to arts education, cultural enrichment, human development, human rights, the natural environment, and grant-making for research.

B-GIFTED strives to make the world a better place with a tightly threaded tapestry of creative ideas. Our Foundation has started small, with a limited scope which sometimes has required us to hurdle substantial obstacles in order to access the

resources that may accelerate growth. Yet, where ideas bloom & blossom, triumph draws nigh; our programs, steadily hoisted from the doldrums, thereby may overleap myriad moats and mountains.

The Foundation aims to encourage the populace to realize and defend the virtues of human rights in daily life. Our organization helps to empower the potential of people living in post-war Sierra Leone, especially women and youth, to use their creative talents to advocate for themselves and others in the face of human rights violations and environmental concerns, thereby striving to better their own lives, their communities, and the World at-large.

Despite the devastating impact and effects of war, the women & children of Sierra Leone are using their God-given gifts & talents to pursue excellence in creative arenas, such as in the arts, music & technology. Sierra Leone women & children are using various modes of creative expression to unravel the human rights violations and environmental challenges which continue to plague our society, and thus they establish their unique potential to impact & influence mass audiences in positive ways.

B-GIFTED also aims to cultivate & nurture the next generation of visual & music artists; so that, through their talents, youth artists may accomplish extraordinary feats. Youth are challenged & empowered to create cultural awareness through advocacy in music, art & technology, so as to solve our society's most urgent human rights problems. Creative expression offers youth a different lens through which to view & envision the better, bolder, and more beautiful sides of human nature, while motivating both individual artists and the greater public to engage these nobler human instincts in acts which benefit our communities, society, and culture.

One main strategic objective of the Foundation is to provide opportunities for creative expression and human rights education by training the Sierra Leone people in digital media arts, so that they are able to share their unique stories with citizens of many other countries throughout the World.

The Foundation also currently offers support for the implementation, analysis & publication of research relating to the most pressing challenges affecting Sierra Leone and countries like ours today, including research related to the psychosocial & cultural repercussions of the conscription of "child soldiers" in African wars.

The B-GIFTED Foundation has been largely supported by gifts from individuals, as well as by contributions from public, private & citizen sector funders. We hope to gain further support through grants & awards from both national and international corporations, foundations and other social-benefitting charitable organizations.

B-GIFTED programs in Sierra Leone still face mammoth challenges as the majority of citizens are poor, illiterate, and too many of them are dying from preventable illnesses. However, programs through the B-GIFTED Foundation Sierra Leone are geared toward cutting those numbers & shifting majority trends.



**B-GIFTED Foundation Sierra Leone seeks to harvest a bountiful vintage of the newest & most venerable ideas from the young brilliant minds of our nation. We seek a true originality of ideas from young people, which might directly benefit & transform our nation, positively & powerfully impacting the lives of many.**

**We seek thoughts & dreams that will revolutionize & astonish our limited perceptions of the World, prodding us toward positive actions that may lead to nation building; whilst, at the same time, original notions that may entertain & enlighten us all at once.**



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Digital Hope InnovatorSpace. The exhibit was



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## **HISTORY OF SIERRA LEONE: The Aftermath of War & A New Democracy...**

Sierra Leone's recent history has been one of turmoil, civil war, and a sustained peace. Shortly after gaining independence from the British in 1961, Sierra Leone fell victim to immense instability while threatened by a series of military coups. By 1991, competing rebel forces, fueled by the illicit diamond trade, began launching attacks that terrorized the nation.

The Sierra Leone Civil War resulted in some of the worst atrocities that the World has ever seen, namely the maiming & mutilation of thousands of innocent civilians and the conscription of young people, "child soldiers," into the army. Finally, on January 18, 2002, after more than a decade of violent, murderous rampage and social insurrection, Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, declared an end to the war in Sierra Leone.

Following the end of the war in 2002, the establishment of democratic governance inaugurated a new period of peace for Sierra Leone; however, both the democratic system of government and the peace-building process were fragile, in light of an apparent lack of substantial development. Early on in its inception, the B-GIFTED Foundation and its founders realized the vital importance of democracy & peace; and, therefore, the organization defined its mission to help in sustaining peaceful democratic governance through development in Sierra Leone.

B-GIFTED thus considers international collaborations, partnerships & support as critical at every level of operation to the successful assertion of our organizations aspirations of democracy, development & peace for Sierra Leone. We envision that international partnerships will, in the long run, provide vital technical, logistical, and financial support for sustaining peaceful democracy & development, as such support

has proven integral to the establishment of a pace toward peace in Sierra Leone; thus ending the war. Such international partnerships will also be helpful in building our institutions upward toward accountability & economic development.

It has often been said that one cannot know how great it is to sustain peace or to be in a peaceful country until war breaks out on home turf. Falling victim to the atrocities of war on domestic soil is a terrible way to learn to value & strive for peace. Consequently, at the cornerstone of peace & democracy in Sierra Leone lies the common goal of protecting our peoples' peaceful coexistence, so that war will never happen again.

Our aspirations for democratic progress & development do not end with assistance in the electoral polling & voting processes. For a democracy to deliver sustainable peace & prosperity, it must also ensure development. Our determined desire for a better life also stands buttressed by the values of democracy, development & peace. The absence of any one of these integral structural supports would spell grave danger for our country.

The B-GIFTED Foundation Sierra Leone is determined to assert our aspirations for the establishment of a nexus between these three vital virtues: democracy, development & peace, by embarking on priority peace-building missions aimed at integrating those virtues, which our country so deeply values, into a timely affirmation of the interconnections between peace & development - interconnections that Sierra Leone is slowly but surely coming to recognize & internalize, due in part to B-GIFTED Foundation efforts to involve and empower communities in the consolidative peace-building & development process.

Sierra Leone's post-conflict history is a prime example of the shared experiences of a common, united people who have taken a proud & potent stance against any possible relapse of conflict or repression. Our contemporary history of democratic governance, peace-building & development illustrates Sierra Leone's commitment to and struggle for due dignity, democracy, development & peace.

## B-Gifted Foundation Founder – Young Innovator 2011



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*B-Gifted Founder Andrew Benson Greene has a very long history of leadership and innovation in ICT that gives hope and promise to thousands of young people in post-conflict Sierra Leone. His dedication to promoting peace and human rights via ICT has won him a number of prestigious International Awards: From Cable & Wireless Childnet Awards at the Science Museum in London 2003, to the Crossing Boundaries*

*Bremen Peace Awards in Bremen Germany in 2003, From the Beyond Borders International Video Competition (Personal Stories from a small planet) hosted by Listen Up in New York in 2003, to the Global Junior Challenge Competition in Rome Italy 2007, Greene's innovation has set him apart. In 2011, Greene won the prestigious ITU Telecom World Digital Innovation Fellowship at the inaugural open competition with his unique ICT initiative 'Digital Hope'. ITU's overwhelming support of Greene and other young Global Innovators was such a refreshing reminder of how Telecom is at its best to chiseling the best of global minds. Greene was also supported by his country's the National Telecommunication Commission in Sierra Leone (NATCOM), as well as individuals and friends, to preparing the much-needed presentation and exhibition materials that helped him to showcase his award winning innovative initiative. At the ITU Telecom World 2012 in Dubai (October 14th to 18th, Greene brought his interdisciplinary research experience in using ICT, and a strong edge to use ICT for peace, E-Development, and education.*

*Greene joined other non-profit and business leaders around the world in a five days of debate in Dubai, from 14 - 18 October, exploring the radical transformation of the ICT industry and the implications for policy, regulation and competitive strategy.*

*'In late 2011, the United Nations agency for ICT, designed and delivered an innovation competition and accelerator programme for young entrepreneurs and not-for-profits whose ideas could solve some of the world's most pressing problems.'*

*Greene Jr, and other shortlisted participants developed their nascent ideas into a product pitch ready for investment. Their workable business model was enhanced through Notosh's workshops, and Greene with his colleague innovators delivered a pitch to an audience of global leaders in technology. Greene's winning pitch received investment from ITU to take his idea to its first prototype. The young innovators were asked to keep ITU updated and later share the development of their applications in the form of blog posts demonstrating how they have realized their digital dreams of making the world a better place through ICT-based social enterprise.*

*A year later, UN ITU summoned Greene and other distinguished young innovators from around the world to share their projects to a galaxy of techno industries. This 'all-telling' is summed up in the specially constructed 'Young InnovatorSpace' for the budding tink tanks in the world of telecom to brandish their work to a revered and experienced ICT audience.*

*In 2012 nearly 400 young entrepreneurs from 77 countries around the world submitted innovative ICT-based early concepts or mature projects - demonstrating how fresh thinking and talent for technology can provide real-world solutions to real-world problems and change the future for the better.*

*This transformation is driven by game changers, the trends and technologies revolutionizing the industry and the world we live in. The Young Innovators Competition at ITU Telecom World 2012 offers social entrepreneurs aged 18-25 years old the opportunity to shine a global ICT spotlight on their innovative ideas and digital creativity. — in [Dubai, United Arab Emirates](#).*



# CERTIFICATE

**ITU Telecom World 2011  
Open Innovation Competitions**

The International Telecommunication Union congratulates  
**B-Gifted Foundation**  
for being selected as one of the best  
Digital Talent at World 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Dr. Hamadoun Touré.

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**Dr Hamadoun Touré**  
Secretary-General,  
International Telecommunication Union



## ***About the Digital Hope Project***

The 'Digital Hope' initiative received investment from the ITU in 2011 to the cost of \$9000 to set up one of several ICT community access centers for youth victims of war. As a winning idea, the project is helping to solve some of the world's most pressing problems. Helping war victims has become one of the serious challenges in the country Sierra Leone. Approximately 20,000 people having their hands and legs chopped off and amputated. Although there is peace across the entire country currently, most of the war victims still cannot live as normal human beings, and marginalized from the main stream of using Information Communication Technologies (ICT).

The Founder Andrew Benson Greene says: "I believe that these technologies will help to inform, educate and change the lives of thousands of war victims from these established amputee camps."

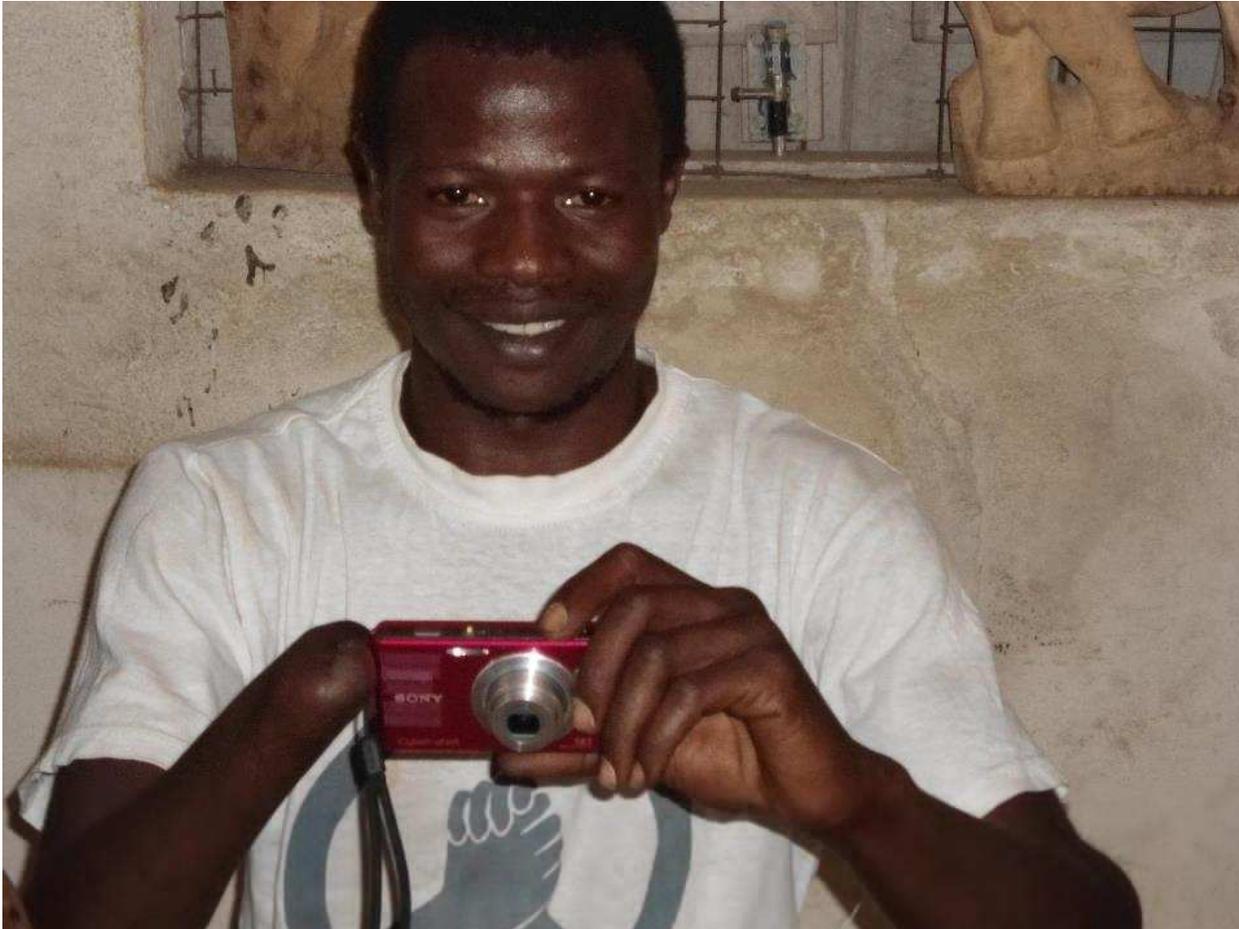
The B-Gifted Foundation [www.bgiftedfoundation.org](http://www.bgiftedfoundation.org) through the support of ITU has put in place a pilot ICT centre that provides a new window of opportunity for these war victims. The amputees received this support with joy as they anticipate a chance to be heard in the mass media.

As news went around to the other amputee camps, there became a serious clamor for the expansion of the initial ICT pilot centre to the other amputee camps.

After attending the design thinking and business workshops run by NoTosh and receiving investment from the ITU, Andrew said that "in a country with very severe economic and social challenges, this is even more of a challenging situation when it comes to amputees and disabled people in the country"

## ***B-Gifted Foundation needs your support.***

The last 9 months of setting up and kick-starting the pilot project digital hope has been a great accomplishment and experience. It has for the first time opened the eyes of national stakeholders and authorities that amputee victims of war and people with disability need to be supported in their quest to be part of the ICT. It is no wonder that this effort has weaved great interest in the digital hope project and partnerships that have potentials for long-term impact for the growth of the project. Also important are the ICT skills training by the 150 amputees undertaking their first ever skills training in the use of ICT technology with basic training in software programs. We expect to move to the next stage in developing the use of online tools such as website to sell their products,



web-based discussion forums, the creating of blogs and online sharing of ideas with other disabled persons around the world. This unique sharing experience between war victims in Sierra Leone and around the world will also help these amputees to heal, build trust and life skills that will enable these victims to become global citizens. The amputees are able to network and forge new friendships, learn from others and develop initiative that will make their lives better and improve the world in which we live. The other side effect of this project is that it has generated interest from other amputee camps. One of our goals is to scale up the project from the pilot phase to reach the target 20,000 Amputee victims in the Camps across the country. Through our one month survey the following Amputee Camps below have registered interested to be involved and benefit from the Digital Hope

**Nothing Speeds the pace of telecom like collaboration. The B-Gifted foundation needs your support and collaboration to setting up ICT community access centres for youth of post-conflict Sierra Leone. To learn how you can fund our projects, please contact us at [b.giftedfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:b.giftedfoundation@gmail.com) or [www.bgiftedfoundation.org](http://www.bgiftedfoundation.org)  
Tel: +232-78-166-966 or +232-33-246994**

Project and gain similar support with ICT skills training.

- Four Mile Amputee Camp
- Grafton Amputee Camp
- The Waterloo Amputee Camp
- The Kono Amputee Camp
- Daru Amputee Camp
- Kemema Amputee Camp
- Bo Amputee Camp
- Aberdeen Amputee Camp
- Magburaka Amputee Camp
- Pujehun Amputee Camp
- Kabala Amputee Camp
- Kailahun Amputee Camp
- Bonthe Amputee Camp
- Mile Shaka Amputee Camp
- Mile 91 Amputee Camp
- Kambia Amputee Camp
- Portloko Amputee Camp
- Zimmy Amputee Camp
- Tayama amputee camp
- Moyamba Amputee Camp

## Useful links.

[www.bgiftedfoundation.org](http://www.bgiftedfoundation.org)

<http://www.notosh.com/2012/01/increasing-access-to-education-in-sierra-leone/>

<http://world2012.itu.int/wt11winners>

<http://www.sierraexpressmedia.com/archives/31752>

[www.peaceinsalone.com](http://www.peaceinsalone.com)

[www.traversewithandrewgreene.blogspot.com](http://www.traversewithandrewgreene.blogspot.com)

[www.sauvescholars.org](http://www.sauvescholars.org)

<b>Annual B-Gifted Foundation Capacity Building needs 2012-2013</b>	
• Office Rent (by Two Years)	\$ 8000
• Office furniture	\$ 3400
• Training in leadership -	\$ 1500
• Staff Salary (five key staff)	\$ 12,500
• Equipment rental and maintenance.	\$2500
• 2 Vehicles- transport for ICT outreach and ICT installation -	\$ 18000
• Legal and audit	\$ 4,000
• Printing and Photocopy -	\$250
• Promotion and Publicity	\$ 2500
• Consultancies (Webmaster, Research)	\$ 3500
<b>Total B-Gifted Capacity Budget 2012-2013</b>	<b>\$56,150</b>  <b>(Fifty Six Thousand, one hundred and fifty dollars)</b>

***We Are Pleased to Announce Our Future Projects. For details of project proposals for our future project, please contact us on [b.giftedfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:b.giftedfoundation@gmail.com)***

- **Second Chance ICT Project Sierra Leone – Estimated cost \$ 42,000**
- **Waging Peace, Not War Project \$ 23,500**
- **Digital Girls Project in Sierra Leone - Estimated cost \$ 45.000**

## Future Investment

- **Construction of a state of the art Multimedia ICT for Youth Innovation Centre in Sierra Leone - Estimated cost \$ 550,000**

***Brief Overview and Problem analysis:*** *The infrastructure in Sierra Leone was devastated during the country's Civil War that also cost the loss of thousands of lives. The multi-media creative ICT centre will be a platform where the youth of Sierra Leone will hone their creative skills and buttress their creative energies.*

***Uniqueness:*** *This multimedia ICT innovative centre will be first of its kind in Sierra Leone. It will address the needs of thousands of youth who till date do not have the opportunities to access ICT and engage in skills training.*



Youth ICT Centre



Youth Music recording Studio



Youth video Production room



Youth Creative visual arts



B-Gifted Office Space

**B-Gifted Foundation welcomes you to discuss our  
future project**

**Thank you!**

