

## Red Ribbon Express

NACO, in collaboration with the national NGO, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Youth Affairs and UNICEF has pioneered the Red Ribbon Express (RRE), a specially designed exhibition train identified as the world's largest mass mobilisation drive on HIV. It disseminates information, primarily to young people and women in semi-urban and rural areas, regarding prevention services on HIV/AIDS.

The train consists of: exhibition coaches showcasing educational material on HIV/AIDS care, support and treatment services, and displaying information on general health, hygiene and communicable diseases; a training coach for orientation and sensitisation of groups such as women, self-help groups, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions, teachers, government officials, police personnel, NGOs and youth leaders; a service coach providing counselling-cum-medical services, including provision for counselling, HIV testing, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) treatment and general health check-ups.

In its first phase in 2007, 180 train stations were covered across 24 states, 6.2 million people were provided with information on HIV/AIDS, and over 68,000 grassroots-level functionaries were trained in the districts through which the train passed. In the second phase in 2009, the RRE-II travelled 2,700 km across 22 states, stopping at 152 stations, reaching out to over eight million people with information on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, training 80,741 grassroots functionaries and testing 35,553 people for HIV.

The government launched the third phase of the Red Ribbon Express in 2012. In this phase, NACO identified 108 main railway stations, at both the source and destination of migrant workers, to provide HIV testing, carry out counselling and disseminate information about HIV/AIDS.

Source: NACO (<http://www.naco.gov.in/NACO>); Sinha, K. (2012); UNGASS (2010) Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013

