

EC Partner

Alternative for India
Development (AID)

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:
€640,000 (75% of total) granted **2004-2008**

Program aims at reaching:

- **110,000 truckers**
- **31,100 villagers**
- **820 commercial sex workers**

Did you know?

An estimated 5.7 million Indians live with HIV/AIDS*



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*report from UNAIDS, the UN's AIDS prevention agency, 30 May 2006

Fight against HIV/AIDS

Preventing the spread of HIV

Migrant truckers, female and male sex workers in India

"The situation is like a ticking time bomb with vulnerability of population at its peak...increased poverty in the region forces the local population to adopt seasonal migration to neighbouring states"

NGO Alternative for India Development member



A new resource centre provides information at key locations

Context: The threat of HIV in East India

The threat of HIV/AIDS looms large in India. In the absence of health infrastructure, a lack of surveillance and health information, and non-implementation of central health programmes, the Eastern Indian states of Jharkhand and Orissa are ranked very low in health status. Increased poverty forces a large population to migrate seasonally to other states, often carrying Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) or HIV with them.

European Commission funding to NGO Alternative for India Development (AID) is helping to implement awareness, treatment, care and support programmes in these vulnerable areas.

Objectives: Inter-state and cross-border HIV prevention

- To prevent inter-state and cross-border STI/HIV transmission, focussing on sexual health problems among migrant truckers, sex workers and village communities
- To reduce poverty caused by STIs by empowering key actors, engaging community, government, private and civil society parties

Impact: What has been achieved?

- 8 Resource centres established at key cross border locations providing information in Hindi, Bengali and Orissa
- Individual and organisational capacity to deal with sexual health provided to 223 peer educators, 221 youths, 149 school teachers, 108 private health providers and 47 sex workers
- Government and local authorities engaged – condoms supplied at all Government health centres in key target areas

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Kuni's story



"As a peer educator, I educate other women too. Owing to this, there is a steep reduction in violence and sexual exploitation of women. There is also increased protection from STDs."

Kuni is a 32 year old sex worker. Married at the age of 17, her husband died just 4 years later due to TB. She returned to her family home along with her son but was forced to leave after being abused by her brothers. Left to fend for herself, she started working as a sex worker. Severe and repeated pelvic infection led to her uterus being removed. Kuni continues to work as a sex worker in the Sonaposi region in Orissa, East India. Having received training by AID on the importance of condom usage and condom negotiation skills, she also acts as a peer educator among other sex workers.

Satyajeet Roy's story

For 9 months of the year, 30-year-old Satyajeet Roy works as a truck driver and travels from Kolkota to different locations all over Andhra Pradesh. At the check-post in Chichra he participated in STI/HIV/AIDS training provided for a group of truckers. Having complained that he did not know how to use condoms properly and that all treatments for his HIV+ infection given by the village doctors had failed, he was referred for appropriate treatment and has been continuously followed up. He remained in phone contact with the AIDS counselling centre while travelling.



Satyajeet Roy, a truck driver in Andhra Pradesh