

## **Brief Descriptipon of COEP**

COEP is a network of networks, established in Rio de Janeiro in 1993. In November 2008 it marked fifteen years of social mobilization against poverty in Brazil. Created by 30 public enterprises to mobilize institutional and public action in support of the popular movement against hunger and poverty, COEP has grown to include more than 1100 organizations. Its membership comprises public enterprises, non-government organizations, private-sector firms, and government departments. Its affiliates are active in a national network, in networks in all 26 states and the Federal District of Brasilia, and in 20 municipalities. COEP does not limit its mobilizing work to its immediate membership, however – it promotes action for social justice among networks of individual citizens, and works with communities throughout Brazil to support local development initiatives.

COEP is a catalyst, an influencer and a connector, mobilizing organizations, communities and individual citizens to take part in or contribute to public campaigns against poverty and hunger, as well as development projects and programs across Brazil. The network encourages its members to form partnerships among themselves, and to cooperate with other organizations. It maintains an extensive database of reference projects, and uses its cadernos (occasional papers) and audio-visual creations to disseminate knowledge, experience and debates about social and economic issues. COEP's website, [www.coeppbrasil.org.br](http://www.coeppbrasil.org.br), includes a description of its members and activities, and links to its project data bank and to affiliated communities and networks of individual citizens.

COEP is wholly created and sustained by Brazilian people and resources. In recent years it has begun to reach out to like-minded organizations in other countries. In 2004, it hosted its First International Seminar in the Northeastern city of Maceió, examining the role of networks in promoting community development. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided partial funding for this Seminar. Its 300 participants included representatives of COEP's affiliates, interested Brazilian networks, and networks and organizations from Latin America, Central America, Africa, Canada, and Europe. In 2005, COEP participated in a seminar on networks and capacity development in Den Haag, the Netherlands, organized by the European Centre on Development Policy Management. COEP also participates in REDEL, a Latin American/Canadian network of organizations active in community economic development and a participant in the Maceió Seminar.