**PRF III AF Implementation Support Mission** **November 19-25, 2020**

PRFIII has received Additional Financing as a loans 22.5 Million USD from World Bank with the period 2020-2024. The agreement was signed by H.E Mr Bounchom Ubonpaseuth, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Nicola Pontara, World Bank Country Manager in Lao PDR.

To reduce poverty and child stunting in 12 priority districts within the four northern provinces of Phongsaly, Xienghkhuang, Huaphan and Oudomxay. These are areas where child stunting and poverty levels are high. Its targeting 481 villages (Actual#465 Villages) and a total population of approximately 200,223 people as project planning.

The mission will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in particular, the Poverty Reduction Fund team, with the objectives to:

• Review the implementation status of:

(i) PRF Ill AF activities in the four target provinces (Houaphan, Phongsaly, Oudomxay and Xiengkhouang) and,

 (ii) activities in the broader PRF Ill coverage area where activities will be winding down soon, and where cofinancing from SDC and the Government is ongoing;

• Discuss PRF Ill AF implementation challenges faced on the ground during COVID-19 and agree on actions to accelerate implementation;

• Discuss the coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and World Bank-financed Nutrition Convergence projects, and;

• Introduce the new Task Team Leader to government development partners, and PRF team.

The mission was held from 19 November 2020 and continuing through 25 November 2020.