Checklist for Rail transport assessment

The following list of areas should be assessed. Check off each when the necessary information has been gathered.

- Give a brief description of the general rail cargo operations. Describe whether the movement of cargo via rail is of any significance. Provide a map/sketch of rail network and terminals;

- What rail wagons and locomotives are available in running order? How many of each type/capacity? Is refrigerated transport available? Who controls them? What is the cost?

- What quantities of different types of cargo can each unit carry? Where? Who owns/controls them?

- What other demands will there be for the use of these units? What can realistically be expected to be available for the programme?

- What additional units are on hand but out-of-service? What parts and expertise would be needed to repair them? What cost? How long?

- Describe load and discharge operations of rail transport; Indicate off-days\(^1\) and indicate whether or not handling equipment operates on those days;

- Describe whether inland terminals have container-handling facilities, and describe the condition;

- List any other equipment – in working condition – available at the rail terminal. If not available, advise what equipment would facilitate and speed up discharge;

- List storage facilities and their condition at the rail terminal site;

- List any fees and documentation required;

- Availability of manual labour; size of the labour force; working hours; shifts and reliability;

- Links to other inland transport facilities; waterways and access roads on or near the platform;

- State of repair of facilities and potential to increase capacity;

- Describe any potential security matters, concerns, or potential bottlenecks;

- Operational constraints; terminal congestion; weather conditions; seasonal congestion;

- Provide any other suggestions, advantages, disadvantages and comments with regard to rail cargo operations.

\(^1\) e.g. weekends, holidays, Ramadan, frequent strikes, etc.