

Checklist for Rail transport assessment

Source: UNICEF

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-days¹ 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.