The Humanitarian Reference Grid is a common reference system for all agencies working in Somalia. The system has been designed for reporting of geographic location in the field, without the use of a GPS. The grid divides Somalia into 404 rectangles each corresponding to the internationally recognized topographic map files. Each of these rectangles is given a unique alpha-numeric reference number. Each of these rectangles is then sub-divided into 80 square cells, 10 across and 8 down. Each square cell is approximately 5 km by 5 km, representing an area of 25 square km. The grid divides Somalia into 404 rectangles each corresponding to the internationally recognized topographic map files. Each of these rectangles is given a unique alpha-numeric reference number. Each of these rectangles is then sub-divided into 80 square cells, 10 across and 8 down. Each square cell is approximately 5 km by 5 km, representing an area of 25 square km. The square cells are referenced from A to K horizontally and from 1 to 8 vertically.

To report your position:
- Locate the square cell you are in on the map using estimated distance and direction from a known point such as a clinic, school or settlement as a guide.
- Note that the alpha-numeric rectangle code (e.g. NA-38-022).
- Note that the numeric reference of the square cell.
- When reporting your position, quote the full grid reference by combining the two references (e.g. NA-38-022-4C).

Legend
- Settlements
- UNICEF Schools 98-99
- UNICEF Clinics
- Airfields
- District Capitals
- Districts
- National Boundary
- 100,000 Grid
- Humanitarian Reference Grid
- Regions
- Rivers from Landsat

Road Type from Topo Maps
- Tracks and Trails
- Major roads

Map Production: Somalia Water and Land Information Management Project (SWALIM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
SWALIM is implemented by the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation. SWALIM is funded by European Commission with 5% co-funding provided by UNICEF.

The Humanitarian Reference Grid is a common reference system for all agencies working in Somalia. The system has been designed for reporting of geographic location in the field, without the use of a GPS.

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.