The Somalia 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 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 an estimated distance horizontally, and from 1 to 8 vertically.
- Note the Alpha-numeric rectangle code (e.g. NC-38-130).
- Note the Numeric reference of the square cell.
- Note the Alphabetic reference of the square cell.
- When reporting your position, quote the full grid reference by combining the two references (e.g. NC-38-130-7G).

The grid is divided into:
- 100,000 Grid
- Humanitarian Reference Grid
- Districts
- 8°0'0"N
- 8°30'0"N
- 46°30'0"E
- 47°0'0"E

Map Production: Somalia Water and Land Information Management Project (SWALIM) and
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Branch Office-Somalia

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