The grid divides Somalia into 404 rectangles each corresponding to the internationally recognized topographic map files. 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. NB-38-035).
- 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. NB-38-035-4G).