Using the Reference Grid to Report Locations

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 subdivided 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-38-111)
- 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., NA-38-111-7C).

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

SWALIM is implemented by the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization. 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.

Map Reference: W47-REF-GRD02-20090618-01-D-4-201

Data sources: SWALIM, UNHCR, FAO Topographic Maps

Elevation GRDT & Landcover: GTOPO30

For copies of digital data please contact enquiries@faoswalim.org

Map Projection: Geographic Coordinates, WGS 84 datum

Legend

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

Road Type from Topo Maps

- Tracks and Trails
- Major roads

0°30'0"N
1°0'0"N