The Somalia Reference Grid is a common reference system for all agencies working in Somalia. The grid divides Somalia into 404 rectangles each corresponding to the internationally recognized topographic map tiles. 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 and direction from known points such as clinics, schools or settlements as a guide.
- Note the alpha-numeric rectangle code (e.g. NC-38-052).
- 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-38-052-4A).

Using the Reference Grid to Report Locations

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