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 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.

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, schools or settlements as a guide.
- Note the alpha-numeric rectangle code (e.g. NA-38-123)
- 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-38-123-6D).