USING THE REFERENCE GRID TO REPORT LOCATIONS

The grid divides Somalia into 404 rectangles each corresponding to the internationally recognized topographic map tiles. Each rectangle 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 alphanumeric rectangle code (e.g. NC-39-098).
- 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-39-098-7H).

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.

Map Projection: Geographic Coordinates, WGS 84 datum
Map Scale - 1:450,000

Data sources: SWALIM, UNHCR, FSAU, Topographic Maps

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