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-38-050).
- 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-38-050-2H).

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