Map Reading

Class hours: **7.30am – 12.30pm**
Pre-requisites: **Participants should have basic computer skills**

Course Description: This training is designed to provide practical knowledge and skills in map reading, assimilation and analysis. Different sets of maps produced by SWALIM are used in interpretation exercises. And in the end, the trainee should be able to perform basic geographic analysis which is necessary for field and office operations.

Unit	Outline
What is a map?	• What is a map • Elements of a map – title, map area, legend, scale , north arrow • Map symbols – standard and non standard symbols
Types of maps	• Topographic maps • Orthographic maps • Physical maps • Political maps
Map symbols	• Roads • Tracks or footpaths • Vegetation • Buildings • Rivers and streams
Elevations on a map (contour lines)	• Steep slopes • Gentle slopes • Valleys • Ridges • Summits • Depressions
Map legend	• Map Name • Year of Production and Revision • General Location in State • Next Adjacent Quadrangle Map • Map Scale • Distance Scale • Contour Interval • Magnetic Declination • Latitude and Longitude
Directions	• Parts of a Compass • Map north and magnetic north • Following direction and giving bearings
Map coordinates	• Geographic vs. grid coordinate systems • Geographic coordinate system – major latitudes and longitudes • Converting degree, minutes and seconds to decimal degrees • Grid coordinate system and Somalia UTM grid
Map scale and distance	• Understanding map scale • Scale representation • Map scale and spatial resolution • Small scale maps – Bigger area but less details • Large scale maps