

CSIR guidelines for the provision of social facilities in South African settlements

C. GREEN AND T. ARGUE

CSIR Built Environment, PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599
Email: cgreen@csir.co.za – www.csir.co.za

INTRODUCTION

The CSIR has developed guidelines for access norms and thresholds to facilitate the planning of social facilities and recreational spaces in a range of settlements. These guidelines have been developed over many years by the CSIR and have been applied in several service access planning projects dealing with the location and right-sizing of social facilities across South Africa.

PURPOSE

The guidelines assist local authority planners in developing well-provisioned and planned human settlements that are fully functional by allowing for:

- Benchmarking of provisions
- Ensuring equitable facility distribution
- Service access planning using accessibility analysis
- Auditing of progress in eliminating backlogs
- Informing capital budgets and sustainability
- Enabling apolitical decision making.

CONTENTS OF THE GUIDELINES PUBLICATION

Besides providing information on using the guidelines and on the context and approach followed during their development, the publication also includes:

- A hierarchy of settlements for the setting of varying norms for the delivery of social facilities
- A recommended process for managing social facility provision, including a stepwise process for using the guidelines
- A summarised set of access norms and threshold standards for each category of settlement size
- More details on each individual facility type.

The following extracts taken from the publication illustrate this.

A: SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION

HIERARCHY OF SETTLEMENTS	CATCHMENT SIZE (NO. OF PEOPLE)	EXAMPLES OF SETTLEMENT TYPES
A Metropolitan cities/regions	> 1 000 000	Johannesburg, eThekweni, Cape Town
B Large cities/small metros	350 000 - 1 000 000	Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Pietermaritzburg, Welkom
C Large towns/regional service centres	100 000 - 350 000	Nelspruit, Witbank, Krugersdorp, Newcastle, George, Stellenbosch
D Small to medium towns/regional service centres	60 000 - 100 000	Ermele, Harismitsh, Mossel Bay, Bethlehem, Bronkhorstpruit, Grahamstown
E Small towns/isolated regional service centres	25 000 - 60 000	Mount Fletcher, Delareyville, Beaufort West, Graaff-Reinet, Kakstad
F Dense dispersed settlements (large continuous development with 10+ persons per hectare and up to 10 km ² in extent)	10 000 - 100 000	Ingwavuma, Jozini, Acornhoek
G Villages	5 000 - 25 000	Merweville, Stella
H Remote villages (Villages more than 20 km from larger settlements)	500 - 5 000	Prieska, Pofadder, Loxton, Keiskammhoek

NB: Villages with less than 500 inhabitants have not been formally considered as they are a separate category and would be provided mostly with mobile services on a needs basis.

A hierarchy of settlement types was drawn up to act as the basis for differing sets of social facility provision guidelines for each settlement type and/or size.

B: USING THE GUIDELINES – A STEPWISE PROCESS

- 1 Establish the settlement type (CONSULT GUIDELINES)
- 2 Identify which social facilities should be provided (CONSULT GUIDELINES and consider local context)
- 3 Compile an inventory of current facilities (locate and record facility locations, capacities, current usage)
- 4 Establish demographic profile of population (Stats SA data or CSIR GAP 2011, www.gap.co.za)
- 5 Evaluate need against current provision levels – determine backlogs (compare inventory against GUIDELINES & check travel distances)
- 6 Community consultation/interaction to determine its requirements
- 7 (Optional) Ascertain need for non-compulsory facilities (CONSULT GUIDELINES)
 - A Review demographic profile
 - B Community interaction
- 8 Identify funding for new facilities/upgrading existing facilities & future operational costs
- 9 Secure funding & buy-in
- 10 Identify land & start procurement process

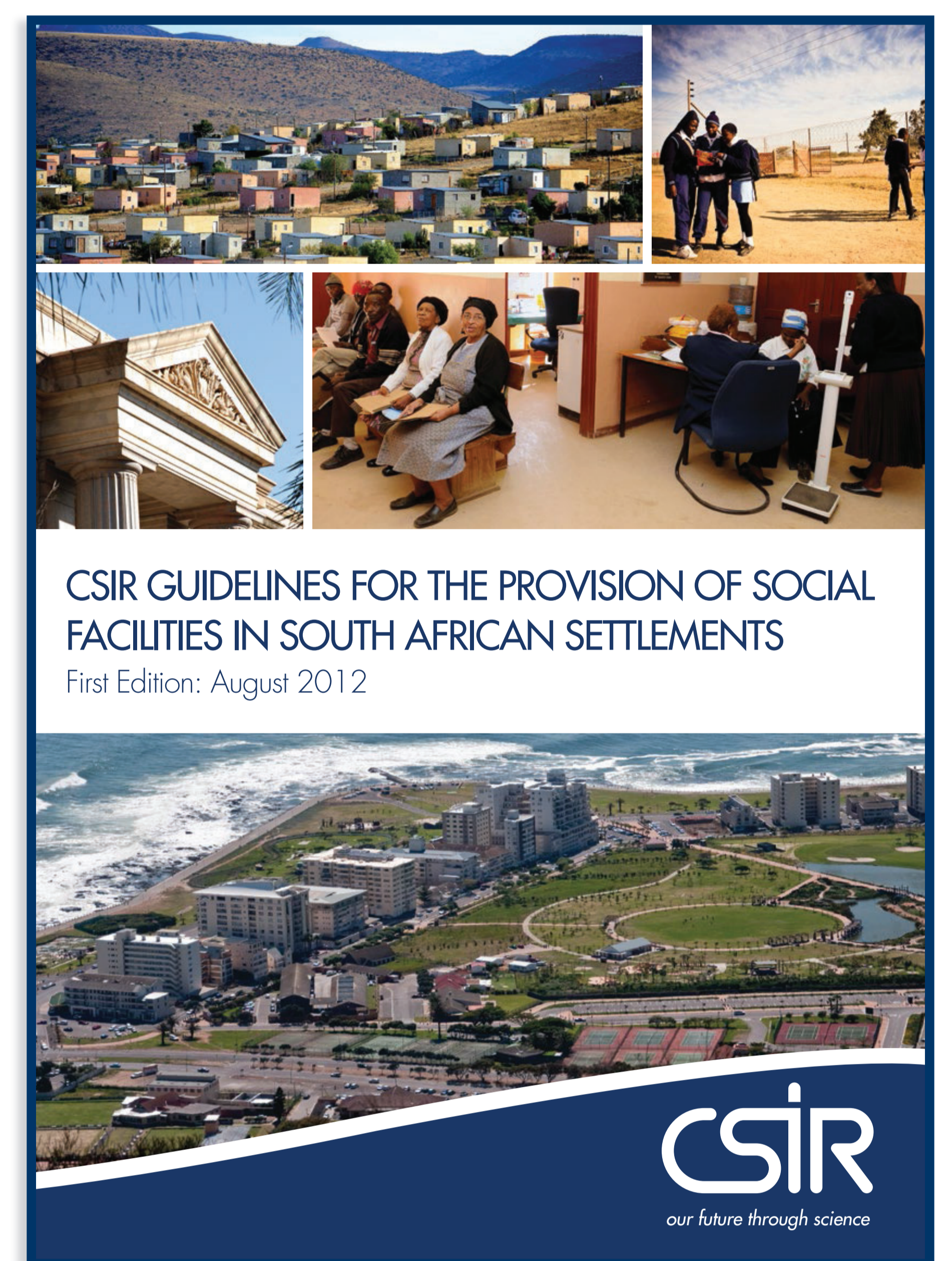
Examples of service access planning outputs which use the guidelines as input parameters
By using the access norms and thresholds in the guidelines, service access planning employing GIS accessibility mapping can be undertaken successfully.

This guideline document seeks to provide a quantitative and rational framework for the provision of key social facilities for various levels of settlements to support the planning process and provide support to the social facility investment plans.

C: EXAMPLE OF GUIDELINES FOR A SETTLEMENT TYPE – B

Guidelines for settlement type B: Large cities/small metros
Guidelines are provided mainly in terms of demand thresholds and access targets (defined as travel time or distance), and provide a framework for negotiating appropriate facility location and size within a range of contexts.

The image shows several pages from the CSIR guidelines publication. It includes a table of facility requirements for settlement type B (Large cities/small metros), a diagram of the stepwise process, and maps showing current facilities and suggested upgrades. The table lists various facilities like Regional Hospital, District Hospital, Community Health Centre, etc., with their respective catchment sizes, average populations, and provision criteria.



D: EXAMPLE OF INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL FACILITY PROVISION GUIDELINES (ACCESS, THRESHOLDS AND SITE SIZES)

Each of the facility types covered by the guidelines has been given an individual sheet which summarises key information.

The image shows a detailed page from the guidelines for a Primary Health Clinic. It includes a table with columns for Planning, Implementation, and Site Requirements. The table provides specific details for each facility type, such as the number of beds, staff requirements, and site characteristics. The page also includes a map showing the location of the facility and a list of key notes.