

Shanghai's 15-Minute Community Life Circle — Scaling Walkable Neighbourhood Access

City Innovation Library · Good practice · China

Quality score: 81/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Shanghai is retrofitting neighbourhoods so daily needs sit within a 15-minute walk, completing 180+ projects toward 99% population coverage by 2035. Over 50 Chinese cities copied the model, though research finds suburbs still lag on elder-care and safety.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

[Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

['Map of happiness' utilized in Shanghai \(China Daily\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

[15-min pedestrian distance life circle and sustainable community governance in Chinese metropolitan cities: A diagnosis \(Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 2023\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

[China moves to upgrade '15-minute community life circles' to facilitate urban living \(Xinhua, Sept 2025\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

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