



AUDITS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION – DATA ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE, MALTA

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REPORTS ISSUED, SCOPE & METHODOLOGY



TWO REPORTS ISSUED

A review of the implementation of Sustainable
Development Goal 2:
Addressing pre-obesity and obesity

July 2023



A review of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1
Malta's efforts at alleviating poverty

December 2020

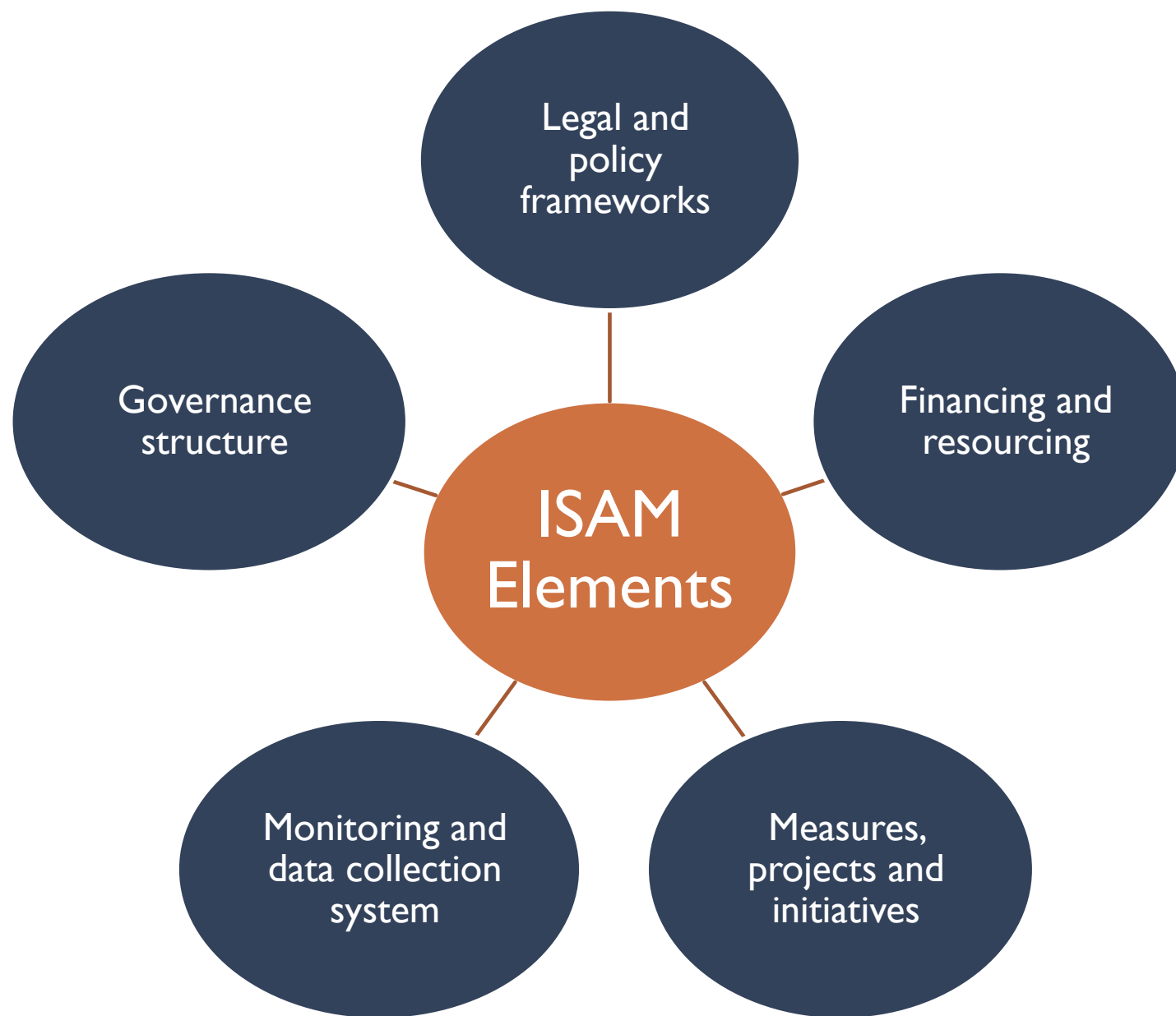
SCOPE OF REVIEW - The NAO enquired whether

progress has
been achieved

Government's
efforts are
sufficient,
effective and
address all
vulnerable
groups

there is
sufficient
communication,
coordination
and
cooperation
within
Government

Government is
providing an
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for other
actors to
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IN APPRAISING THESE ELEMENTS, CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO:

- HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL COHERENCE
- COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION
- MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
- LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND PRINCIPLE

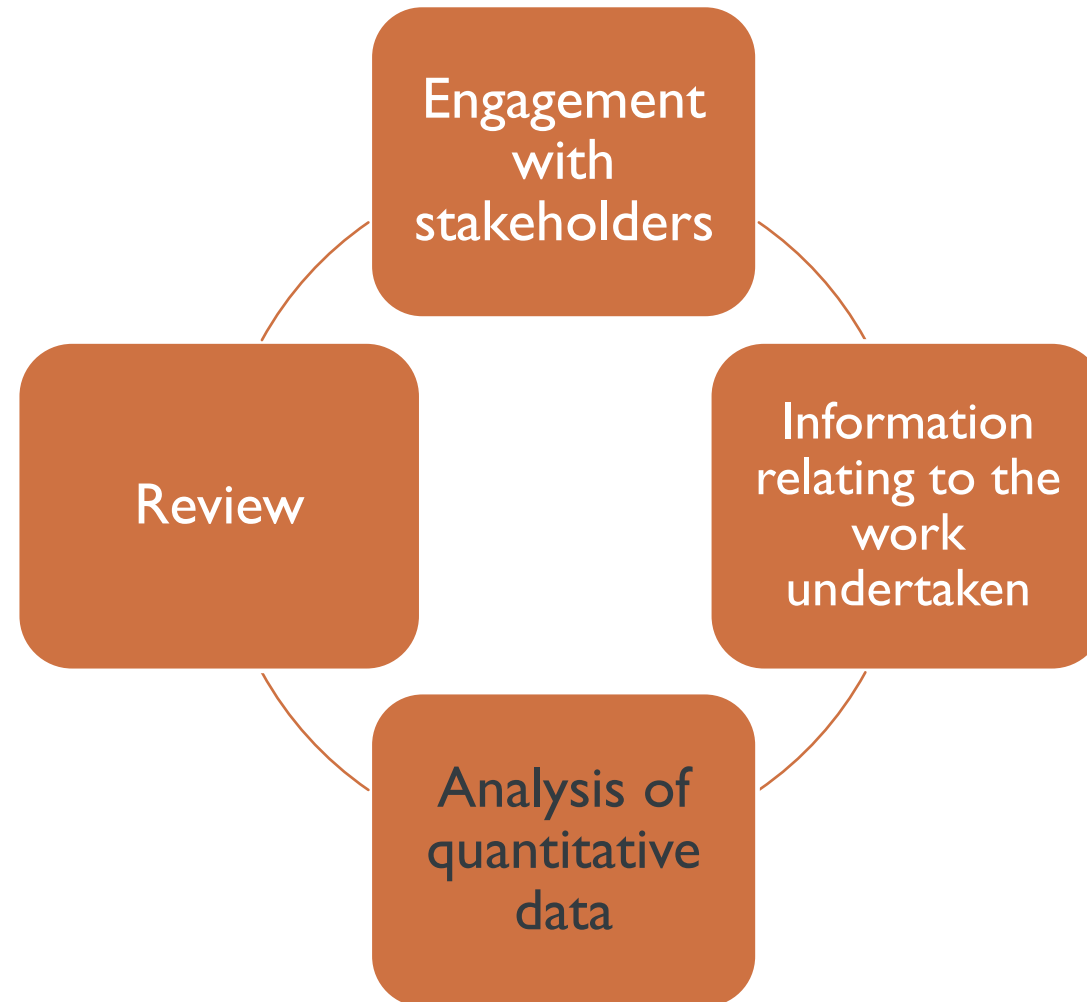
IDI'S SDGS AUDIT MODEL



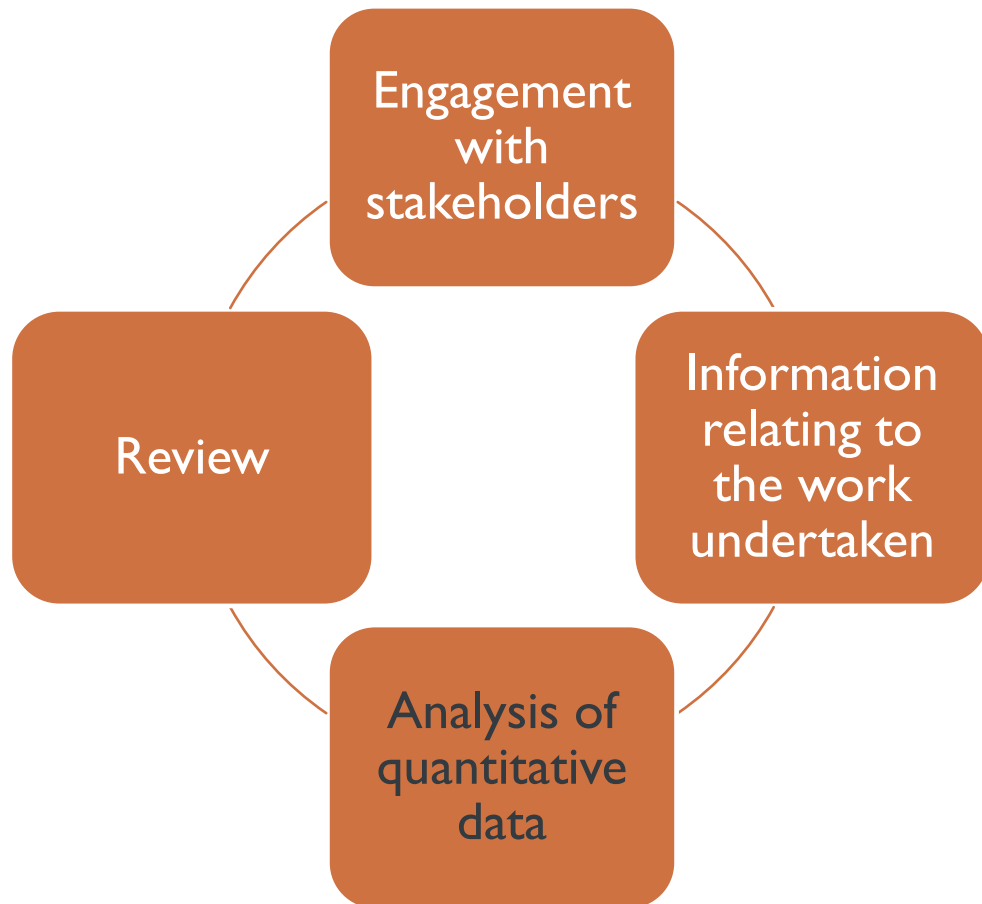
FIELDWORK & ANALYSIS



Fieldwork undertaken



Analysis of quantitative data – Poverty review



SOURCES:
EU SILC data

Baselines set as 2008 and 2015; Latest available data 2018
2018 microdata & 2008-2018 salient indicator data

ANALYSIS:

Trend over time

Salient indicator data disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics

Supplementary indicators of deprivation

Housing cost analysis

TRENDS OVER TIME FOR SALIENT INDICATORS

Year	ARPT60i (%)	AROPE (%)	MD (%)	SMD (%)
2008	15.3	20.0	13.7	4.3
2015	16.6	23.0	15.5	8.5
2018	16.8	19.0	8.7	3.0
Year	ARPT60i (n)	AROPE (n)	MD (n)	SMD (n)
2008	61,256	79,755	54,711	17,270
2015	71,712	99,209	67,028	36,646
2018	78,685	88,777	40,754	14,246

- Positive results for AROPE, MD & SMD
- Increases in the headcounts for AROPE for the period 2008-2018 explained in terms of the total population increase
- Increases in the headcounts and rates for ARPT60i

DEPRIVATION INDICATORS

	n	%
Cannot afford three of the listed items (MD)	40,754	8.7
Cannot afford four of the listed items (SMD)	14,246	3.0
Cannot afford at least one of the listed items	176,796	37.8
Cannot afford one week's annual holiday	142,871	30.6
Cannot afford participating in leisurely activities [population 16+ years]	54,027	13.6
Cannot afford spending a small amount of money on oneself every week [population 16+ years]	47,385	12.0
Cannot afford to replace worn-out or damaged furniture	79,578	17.0
Experience pollution, grime or other environmental problems	138,880	27.9
Do not have a bath or shower or indoor flushing toilet for sole use of the household in one's dwelling	4,057	0.9



54,027

persons do not afford
leisurely activities



47,385

persons do not afford to
spend a small amount of
money on themselves
every week

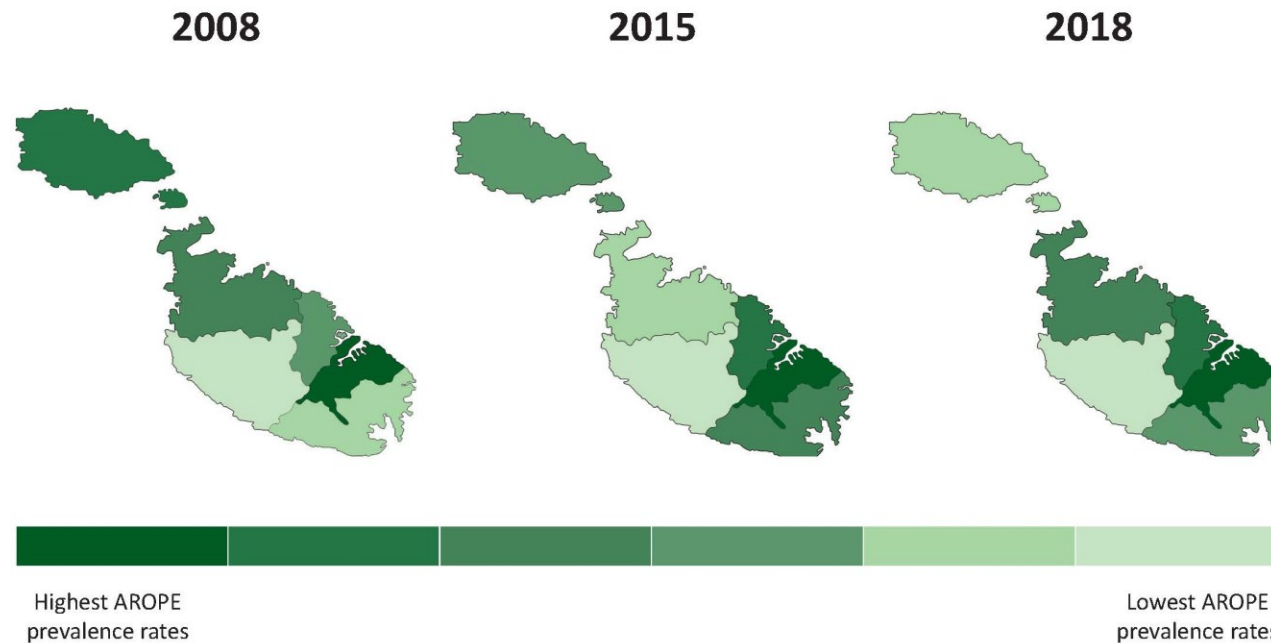


79,578

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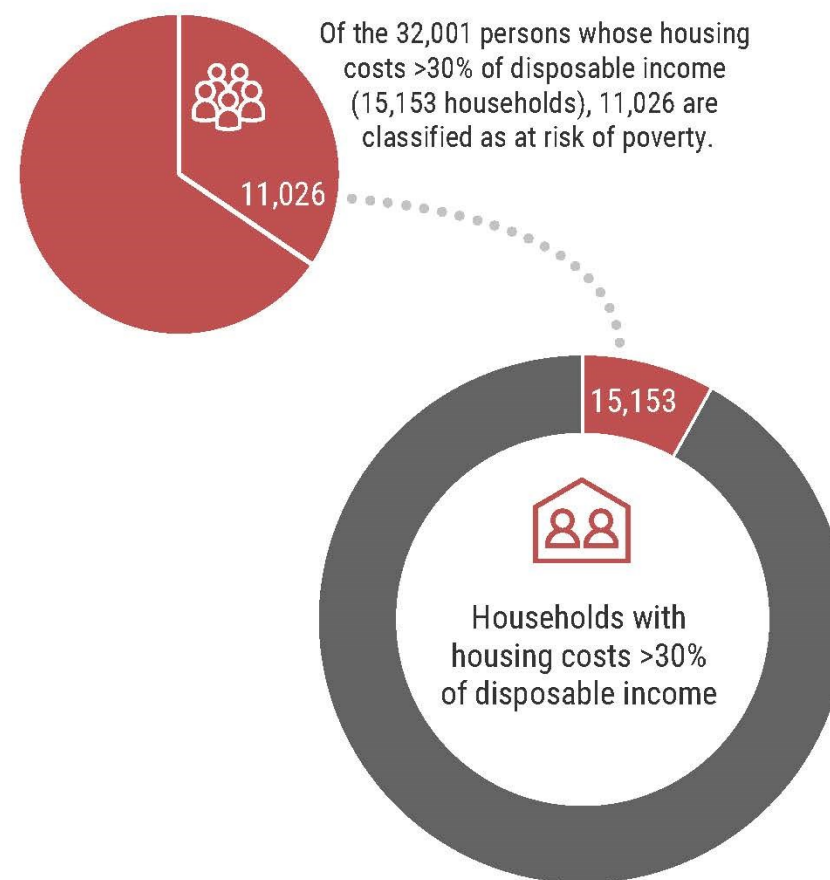
DISAGGREGATED PREVALENCE RATES EVIDENCE OF SYSTEMIC DISADVANTAGES

Ranking of districts by AROPE prevalence rates

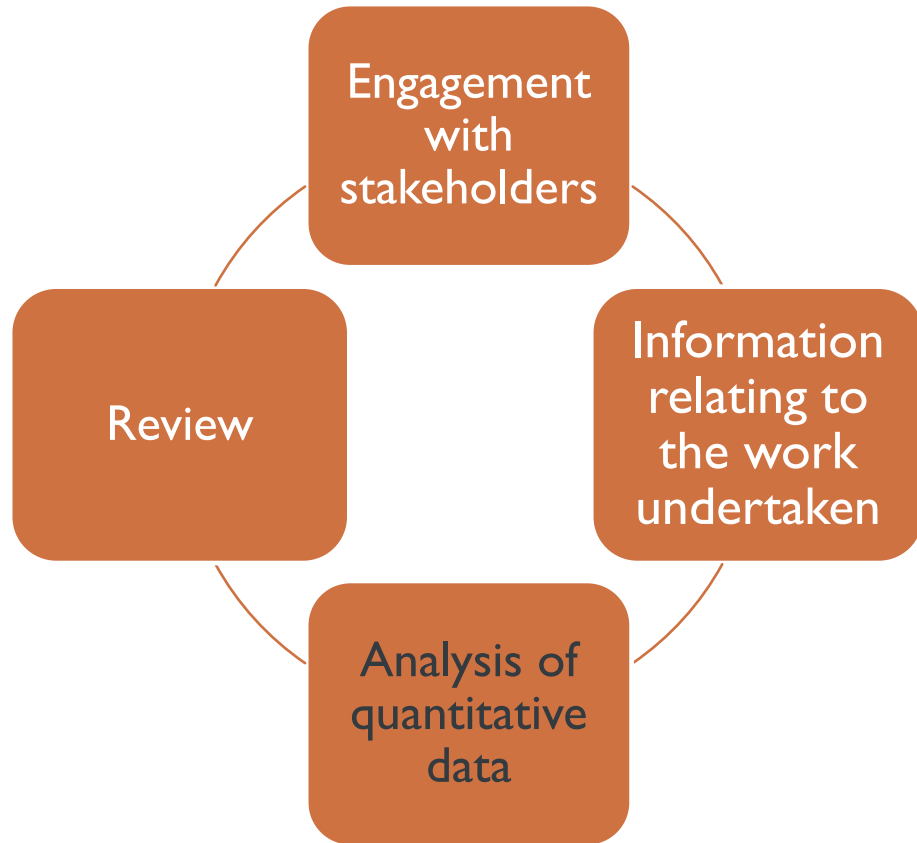


2018 EU SILC MICRODATA – HOUSING COSTS

- Assessing housing affordability
- 15,153 households (8.1%) [32,001 individuals (6.8%)] had housing costs that exceeded 30 per cent of the household's disposable income
- 32,001 individuals (6.8%) had housing costs that exceeded 30 per cent of their household's disposable income
- Only 34.5 per cent (n=11,026) of those individuals classified as having housing costs above the threshold were also ARPT60i



Analysis of quantitative data – Overweight Review



SOURCES:

COSI, HBSC and EHIS data

Data sourced from respective international offices

No microdata sourced

ANALYSIS:

Trend over time

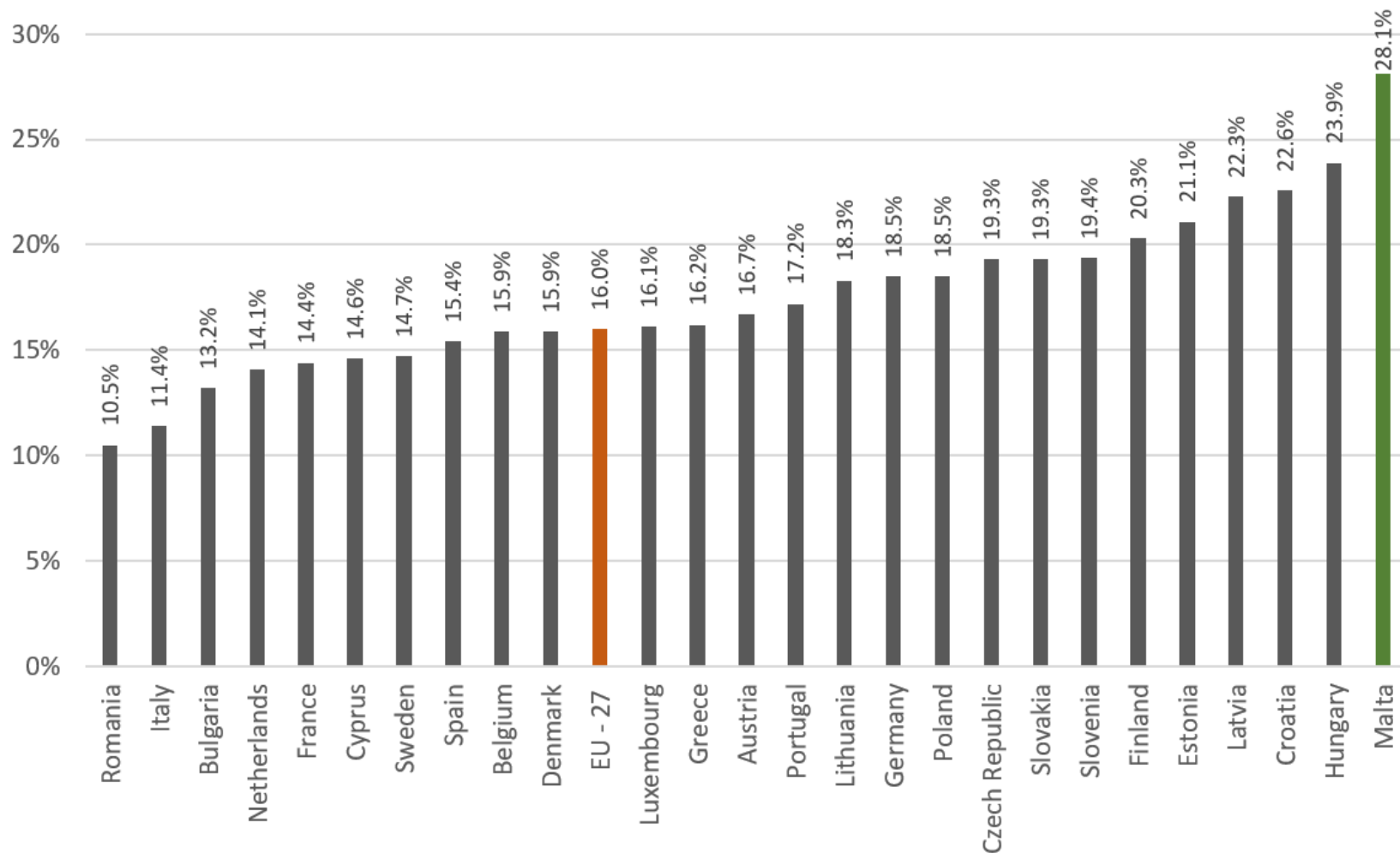
Comparative country analysis

Salient indicator data disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics for latest data available

Analysis health determinant behaviours

Assessment of whether targets have been reached

ADULT OBESE PREVALENCE RATES, EHS 2019

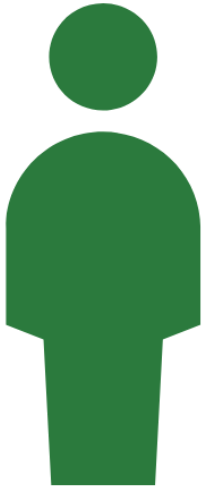


HEALTH DETERMINANT BEHAVIOUR

- Analysis of food consumption patterns and uptake of physical activity data
- High prevalence of behaviours that contribute to overweight
- Sub-optimal consumption of fruit and vegetables
- Most adolescents and adults do not partake in the minimum level of recommended weekly physical activity; Statistics for children are more encouraging

Uptake of physical activity

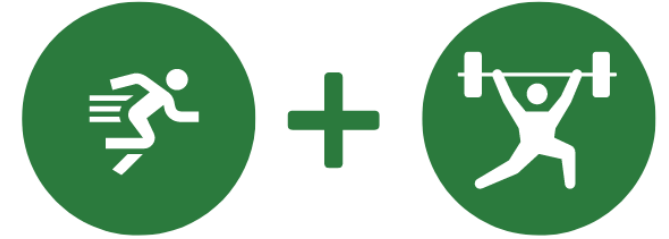
EHIS, 2019; HBSC, 2019; COSI, 2019



11.8% of adults
undertake
aerobic activity



13.8% of adults
undertake
muscle-strengthening activity

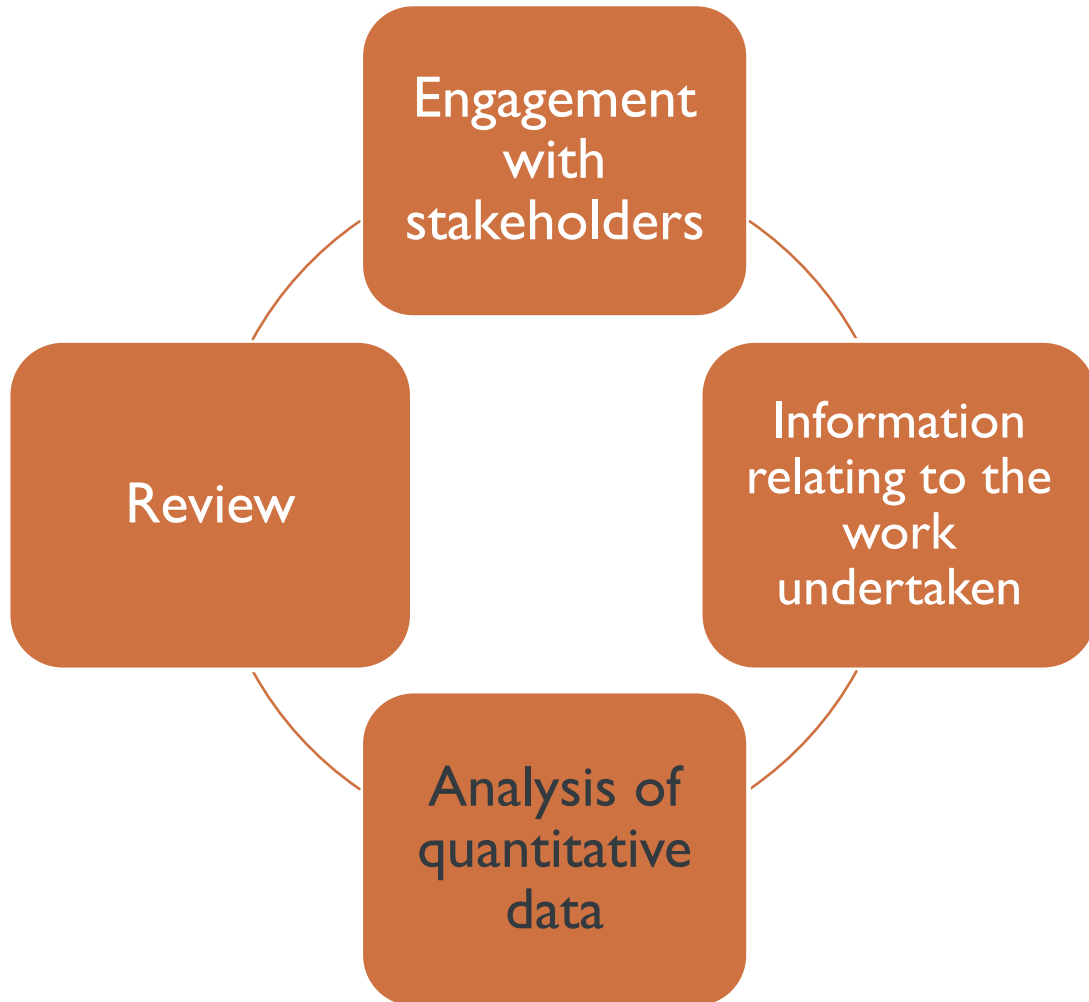


5.9% of adults
undertake
both activities

Physical activity recommendation for adults:

2.5 hours of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity per week
muscle-strengthening activities two or more days per week

Analysis of quantitative data



Differences in approach:

Data sourced

Poverty review – microdata sought and statistics produced by the Office

Overweight review – all required statistics provided to the Office

Analysis undertaken

Similarities in approach:

Focus on official statistics



DRAWING CONCLUSIONS



Concluding on audit questions

progress has
been achieved

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HAS PROGRESS BEEN ACHIEVED?

DATA AVAILABILITY FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS

- If data relating to targets is available, assess whether targets have been achieved/will be achieved
- If data relating to targets is not available, assess trend in available salient indicator statistics

2020 targets

			
Pre-obese adults	Obese adults	Obese adolescents	Overweight children
reduction in the pre-obese adult population to at least 33 per cent	reduction in the obese adult population to at least 18 per cent	maintenance of the obese 13-year-old population below 15 per cent	reduction in the overweight 7-year-old population to 27 per cent
 Target was not met, and the rate at the starting point was maintained	 Target was not met, and the rate has increased substantially from the starting point 	 Target reached, and the current rate is substantially below the target level	 Target was not met, and the rate has increased from the starting point 

HAS PROGRESS BEEN ACHIEVED?

SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE & DATA COVERAGE AND QUALITY

- Supplementary statistics may also be considered
- Supplementary statistics may capture other elements of the phenomenon or additional population segments
- Consider also stakeholder views on progress achieved
- If quantitative and qualitative evidence are conflicting, reconcile anomaly
- Consider data coverage and data quality issues

HAS PROGRESS BEEN ACHIEVED? RECONCILING CONFLICTING EVIDENCE – POVERTY REVIEW

EU SILC DATA

- Mixed outcomes
- Decrease in prevalence rates for AROPE, MD & SMD
- Increases in the headcounts and rates for ARPT60i

STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

- Mixed opinions
- Collective assessment not positive
- Stakeholder feedback followed robust qualitative methodology
- Many stakeholders engaged in the process
- Stakeholder feedback cannot simply be dismissed as anecdotal

Reconciling the evidence – stakeholders may be experiencing peripheral poverty not captured in the EU SILC

HAS PROGRESS BEEN ACHIEVED?

DATA COVERAGE ISSUES – POVERTY REVIEW

- Concerns raised over coverage of EU SILC
- In line with EU methodology population of interest is restricted to individuals living in private households
- Other concerns mentioned: Comprehensiveness of sampling frames; Non-eligible, hard-to-sample, hard-to-contact and hard-to-interview individuals may be particularly prone to being at risk of poverty
- Possibility that current statistics do not provide a complete picture of poverty in Malta
- Proposal for a broader definition of poverty and for supplementary indicators, surveys and qualitative studies

DO GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF ALL VULNERABLE GROUPS?

- Mix of qualitative and quantitative evidence considered
- Identify whether legislation, policy and projects, measures and initiatives target vulnerable groups
- Stakeholder views on Government's address of the needs of vulnerable groups, especially those of NGOs working with vulnerable groups and representatives of vulnerable groups
- Salient indicator statistics disaggregated by demographic categories may indicate systemic disadvantages
- Assess data disaggregation requirements



IMPACT



IMPACT

■ POVERTY REVIEW

Presentations delivered at the National Task Force on SDG Indicators and the Public Accounts Committee

Awareness raised regarding coverage of official statistics

■ OVERWEIGHT REVIEW

Informed subsequent policy issued by the ministry responsible for health

Direct reference to report

Many recommendations integrated



DISCUSSION POINTS



DISCUSSION

DATA ACCESS AND COVERAGE

- Possibility that official statistics do not fully cover population of interest
- Underrepresentation of vulnerable or hard-to-reach groups
- Is population coverage a consideration for your SAI when using official statistics?
- Have you encountered similar data limitations in your audits? How did you address them?
- What are possible ways to address coverage issues?

DISCUSSION

CONFLICTING QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE EVIDENCE

- Possibility that quantitative and qualitative evidence are conflicting
- How should SAls approach situations where statistical evidence and stakeholder perspectives diverge?
- What could explain such divergencies?



THANK YOU!