

Responding to Heart-Stopping Challenges: Why Readiness Matters



As Christian Eriksen slotted in Denmark's opening goal during the UEFA European Championship in 2024, the stadium erupted in a standing ovation – not just for the brilliance of the play, but for his resilience and remarkable comeback.

Just three years earlier, during the 2021 edition of the tournament, Eriksen suffered a near-fatal cardiac arrest, an event that could have ended in tragedy. However, years of foresight by the relevant authorities and the implementation of robust preventive measures ensured a different outcome.

The rapid response from the medical staff was life-saving, highlighting the critical role of established laws and protocols. The European Resuscitation Council guidelines, which emphasise the importance of immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators, played a pivotal role in Eriksen's survival. His remarkable return to professional football later that same year stands as a powerful testament to the value of preparation and the systems that silently safeguard lives.

In the financial world, similar principles apply. Deposit insurers like **PIDM ensure that when financial crises occur, there are clear systems in place to protect depositors, as well as takaful certificate and insurance policy owners.** Just as medical protocols are established well in advance to handle emergencies on the field in case they occur, PIDM's work is rooted in proactive prevention measures. While financial institution failures are rare, their consequences can be severe. Through our Deposit Insurance System and Takaful and Insurance Benefits Protection System, PIDM safeguards depositors and owners of takaful certificates and insurance policies, while also taking a forward-looking approach to financial stability.

One key element of these measures is PIDM's risk-based premium and levy systems, which collect funds from our member institutions during business as usual. The amount each institution contributes depends on its risk profile – the better the risk profile, the lower the premium or levy and vice versa. This encourages them to improve their risk management practices, thereby increasing their resilience and preventing failure.



As a resolution authority, PIDM plays a crucial role in managing distressed member institutions in an orderly manner, minimising disruption to the financial system. PIDM's resolution planning initiative ensures that, should a member institution face trouble, we have the tools and strategies to tackle it effectively. By having details of what can or should be done set out in advance, potential disruptions can be mitigated, allowing a swifter response when the time comes – much like how following detailed protocols help medical teams to save lives in an emergency.

PIDM's resolution role is all about readiness. Whether assuming control, restructuring, or managing the orderly liquidation of a troubled member institution, PIDM ensures resolutions are handled as effectively as possible. Just as medical personnel work quickly to stabilise a cardiac arrest victim, PIDM steps in to stabilise the failing member institution – protecting financial consumers, maintaining public confidence, and ensuring financial system stability.

While medical professionals played a crucial role in Eriksen's survival, the actions of others on the field also need to be recognised. Officials and teammates knew how to respond in that critical moment. Notably, the captain of the Danish team was the first to act, using his first aid training to administer CPR – an intervention that helped save Eriksen's life. Similarly, PIDM's readiness efforts extend beyond itself, involving key stakeholders such as regulators, financial institutions, service providers, the media, and the public. By ensuring these players are prepared to collaborate, PIDM strengthens the overall resilience of the financial system.

The importance of established laws and guidelines in protecting lives and livelihoods cannot be overstated. Many lives have been saved in medical emergencies because all those involved were ready to carry out their roles based on the relevant protocols. Likewise, PIDM's protection and resolution frameworks ensure financial consumers have continued access to deposits and coverage on takaful and insurance benefits, so that their daily lives can go on.

The ovation that greeted Eriksen's return was a rare, public acknowledgment of the power of preparation, yet the systems that protected him – like PIDM's role in financial stability – operate silently and surely in the background. Whether in healthcare or finance, the heart of the matter is straightforward: readiness and timely action make all the difference.