



**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**

**Activity Brief**

*Between 30th June and 3rd July 2025, key stakeholders collaborated to translate the Early Warning System (EWS) mobile application into Chichewa. This initiative was aimed at improving access to critical disaster alerts for the majority of Malawians, especially those in communities where English is not widely spoken.*

*Led by the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), the translation process brought together experts from DCCMS, UNDP, DoDMA, Optimum Team, and MACRA. As part of the exercise, the app was renamed “Chenjezo 24/7”, highlighting its round the clock role in notifying users of potential hazards.*

*The app, developed under a resilience-building project funded by the European Union’s DG-ECHO, supports urban preparedness in cities such as Lilongwe and Mzuzu. It provides timely alerts through SMS, WhatsApp, email, and push notifications, along with essential resources like evacuation maps, emergency contacts, a reporting portal, and a preparedness chatbot.*

*The addition of Chichewa language support addresses a significant accessibility gap, ensuring that more people can benefit from the tool’s features. It reflects the project’s commitment to inclusive communication and community centred disaster preparedness.*

**[30<sup>TH</sup> June – 3<sup>RD</sup> July 2025]   [Zomba]   Publication No: [T.R2025/03]**

**Title of the Activity**

Translation of the Early Warning System Mobile Application into Chichewa

**Objective of the Activity**

The main objective of the activity was to enhance the accessibility and usability of the Early Warning System (EWS) mobile application by translating it into Chichewa, thereby ensuring that vital, life-saving information reaches a wider segment of the Malawian population. By localising the app, the initiative aimed to break language barriers, improve community understanding of disaster alerts, and strengthen local preparedness and response to natural hazards such as floods and storms.



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### **Key Activities Conducted**

- The main activities carried out during the localisation of the Early Warning System (EWS) mobile application included the translation of all app content—such as alerts, menus, instructions, and chatbot responses—from English into Chichewa to improve accessibility for local users. Technical updates were made to the app to enable bilingual functionality, allowing users to switch between English and Chichewa. A team of experts from MUST, DCCMS, DoDMA, UNDP, Optimum Team, and MACRA collaborated to review and validate the translated content to ensure accuracy and clarity. As part of the localisation, the app was officially renamed “Chenjezo 24/7”, a title that resonates more with the local context and its purpose of providing continuous disaster alerts. The process also incorporated feedback gathered during previous community training sessions to ensure the app meets the needs of its intended users. Finally, discussions were held on strategies for promoting the updated app and supporting its rollout through public awareness and user training efforts.

### **Partners/Stakeholders**

- [Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Optimum Team, Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) ]

### **Key Takeaways / Outcomes**

- The Early Warning System (EWS) mobile application was successfully translated into Chichewa.
- The app was officially renamed “Chenjezo 24/7”, reflecting its 24-hour disaster alert function.
- Bilingual functionality (English and Chichewa) was integrated into the app to improve accessibility for all users.
- Translated content was reviewed and validated by a multi-stakeholder team to ensure accuracy and cultural relevance.
- Enhanced potential for increased app usage and community trust in digital early warning tools.
- Strengthened collaboration among key institutions: MUST, DCCMS, UNDP, DoDMA, MACRA, and Optimum Team.



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**Photo Highlight**



***Participants pausing for a group photo.***

**DCCMS Officers Involved**

[Alick Chibanthowa, Meteorologist, NMC]

[Brenda Soko, Meteorologist, NMC]

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**For More Information**

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