

... from Rajok tol-

... government forces in the area.

... during celebrations to mark World Environment Day at Palabek Gem Refugee Settlement Camp on

embarking on is the use of alternative energy sources so that trees are saved," Mr Wangwe said.

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## Refugee hosting districts lack basic needs - report

**KAMPALA.** People living in Uganda's refugee hosting districts, both hosts and refugees, are deprived of basic services such as water, sanitation and shelter, a new report has revealed.

According to "Child Poverty and Deprivation in Refugee Hosting Area" study conducted by the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Unicef and University of Cardiff, the host communities and refugees in West Nile, the south west, and Kampala lack basic necessities.

Presenting the report on Wednesday in Kampala, the executive director of EPRC, Ms Sarah Ssewanyana, said refugee children are more deprived of necessities than those from host communities, ranging from 2 per cent to 32 per cent.

"This study represents the first attempt to compare child poverty

and deprivation in host and refugee communities in Uganda. Globally, it represents the first application of a consensual approach to measuring poverty and deprivation in emergency situations," she said.

According to the findings, for items perceived by the majority of the population to be necessities for children, refugee children are more deprived than children from host communities, ranging from 8 per cent to 32 per cent.

The report says refugee children are much less likely to receive gifts on special occasions and less likely to have new sets of clothes than host children. "We need to go beyond emergency response to build the systems and capacities of all social services in refugee hosting districts. Only by doing so that with health, nu-

trition, education, water, sanitation, and child protection services, among others will we reduce the multiple deprivations experienced by tens of thousands of refugee children and children in host communities," Dr Doreen Mulenga, UNICEF's representative in Uganda, said.

The leaders of districts in the West Nile Sub-region that are hosting South Sudan refugees have always complained of refugees straining their resources such as roads, water, sanitation and environment.

The Maracha District chairperson, Mr Lawrence Adiga, said most parts of the district are left bare due to cutting of eucalyptus trees.

"Since the refugees came, most of the forests that we had have been cut for poles and firewood because the people want money. They sell these

poles for construction of houses in the refugee camps. We need to reverse this trend otherwise we shall soon have a desert," Mr Adiga said.

Overall, both refugee and host communities experience a significant level of deprivation. Although conditions for refugees improve over time, basic needs deprivation among hosts remains high, in some cases higher than among refugees, such as water and shelter in West Nile.

The study also recommends government expands access to basic social services and improve quality and efficiency, improve institutional mechanisms for delivering social services, boost household food security, introduce the accelerated education programme, and provide employment and livelihood support to urban refugees.