**Girls’ education should be a development priority for the Commonwealth**

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A new report into girls’ education in the Commonwealth has highlighted the gap between ambition and reality.

Many Commonwealth countries have made good progress towards achieving gender equality in education, with girls out-performing boys in some countries. However, girls remain particularly disadvantaged in a large number of countries and there is a compelling case for targeted efforts to support them.

The report, published by Cambridge University, suggests that governments across the world need to target more funding to the early years of education, especially for girls in remote rural areas. It also highlights the need for targeted approaches to help girls overcome the many challenges they face as they reach puberty.

“The importance of investing in girls’ education cannot be overstated. Educated girls are a powerful force for building more prosperous, fair and resilient societies. Our shared vision of quality education for all girls can only be achieved through a much greater collective effort to dismantle the barriers, driven by leaders from all sectors of society,” said the Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt.