

Pauline Rose, Director of the Global Monitoring Report on Education said:

"While almost all female and male students from rich backgrounds are reaching grade 2 and above in maths in the UK, our new Education for All Global Monitoring Report shows that fewer than two thirds of female students from poor households are making the grade. The country's record is worse in terms of gaps between rich and poor than in many other rich countries. In Finland, for example, almost nine out of ten female students from poor households are reaching grade 2, and they have a similar chance to those in the country from wealthier households.

"Achieving a level that allows students to demonstrate the kind of skills that enable them to use their maths in ways that are considered fundamental for their future development should not be a luxury reserved only for the elite. It is vital that countries including the UK invest in improving the quality of teaching and learning for all students, regardless of their background."