Can MOOCs solve Africa's educational challenges

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Education Challenges in Africa

- Quantity
  - Low % of the youth access to education
    - Around 6% for higher education
    - Growing youth population (>1 B by 2050, highest worldwide)
  - Cost of education vs GDP, Culture

- Quality
  - Shortage of qualified teachers
  - Limited resources (ICT devices & access, energy, funding)
    - Limited access to new (education) technologies
    - Limited Research, Limited number of teachers

Education Challenges in Africa

■ Economic and social impact (unequal chances to access to education, small middle class)

◆ Private higher education: fast growing education sector

Literacy rate by age group between 2010 and 2015
UNIT OF MEASURE [Percentage], SEX [Total], AGE [15 and over]

Eastern Asia: 96.37%

Developed regions: 99.17%

Sub-Saharan Africa: 64.44%

Latin America and Caribbean: 93.23 %

■ Eastern Asia (SDG_EAS)   ■ Sub-Saharan Africa (SDG_SSA)   ■ Developed regions (SDG_DEVELOPED_REG)

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-lit-lr-age_group

Illiterate population by age group between 2010 and 2015
UNIT OF MEASURE [Number of persons], SEX [Total], AGE [15 and over]

Sub-Saharan Africa

Developed regions

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-lit-illit_pop-age_group
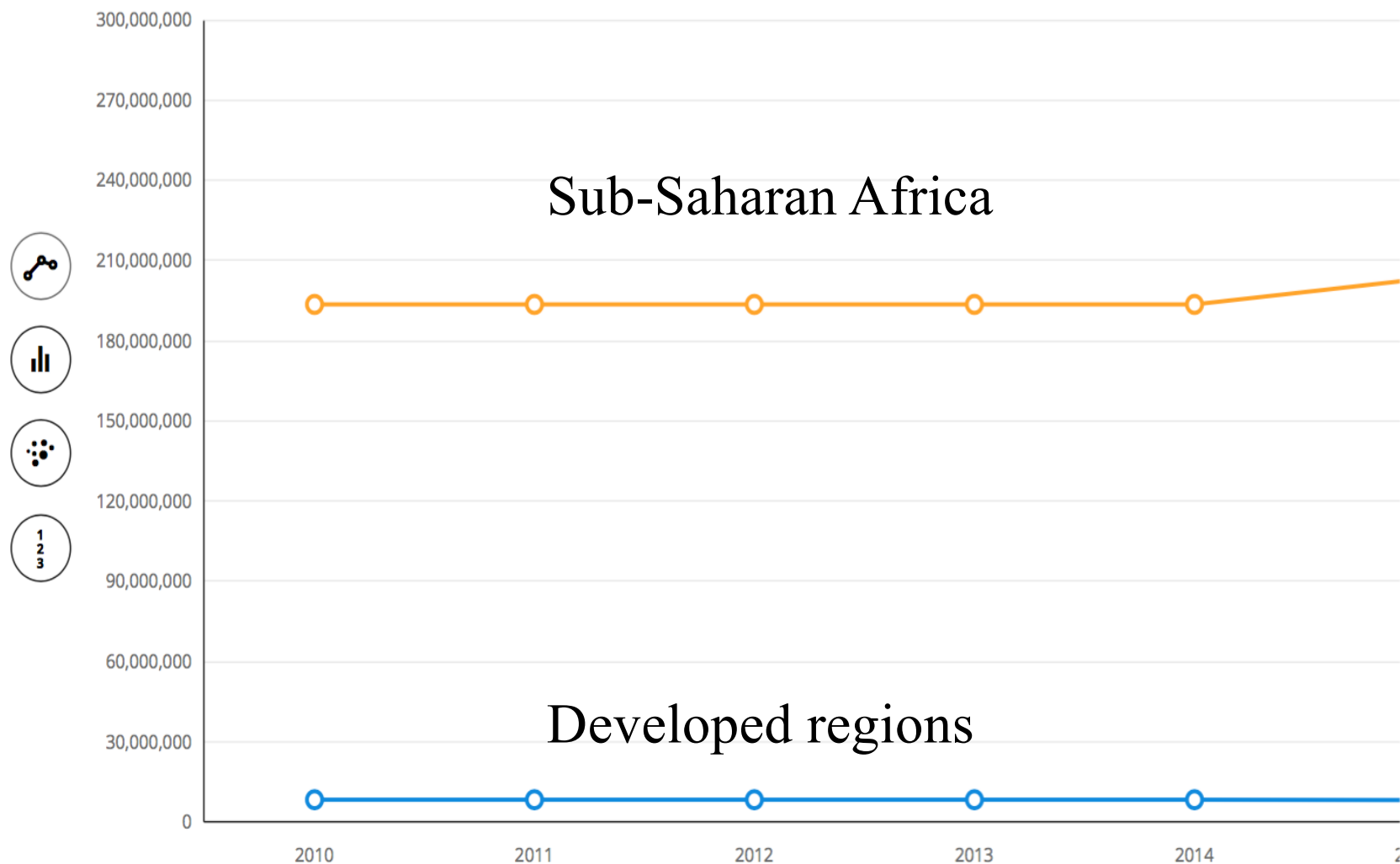
Expenditure on education as % of GDP (from government sources) between 2009 and 2014
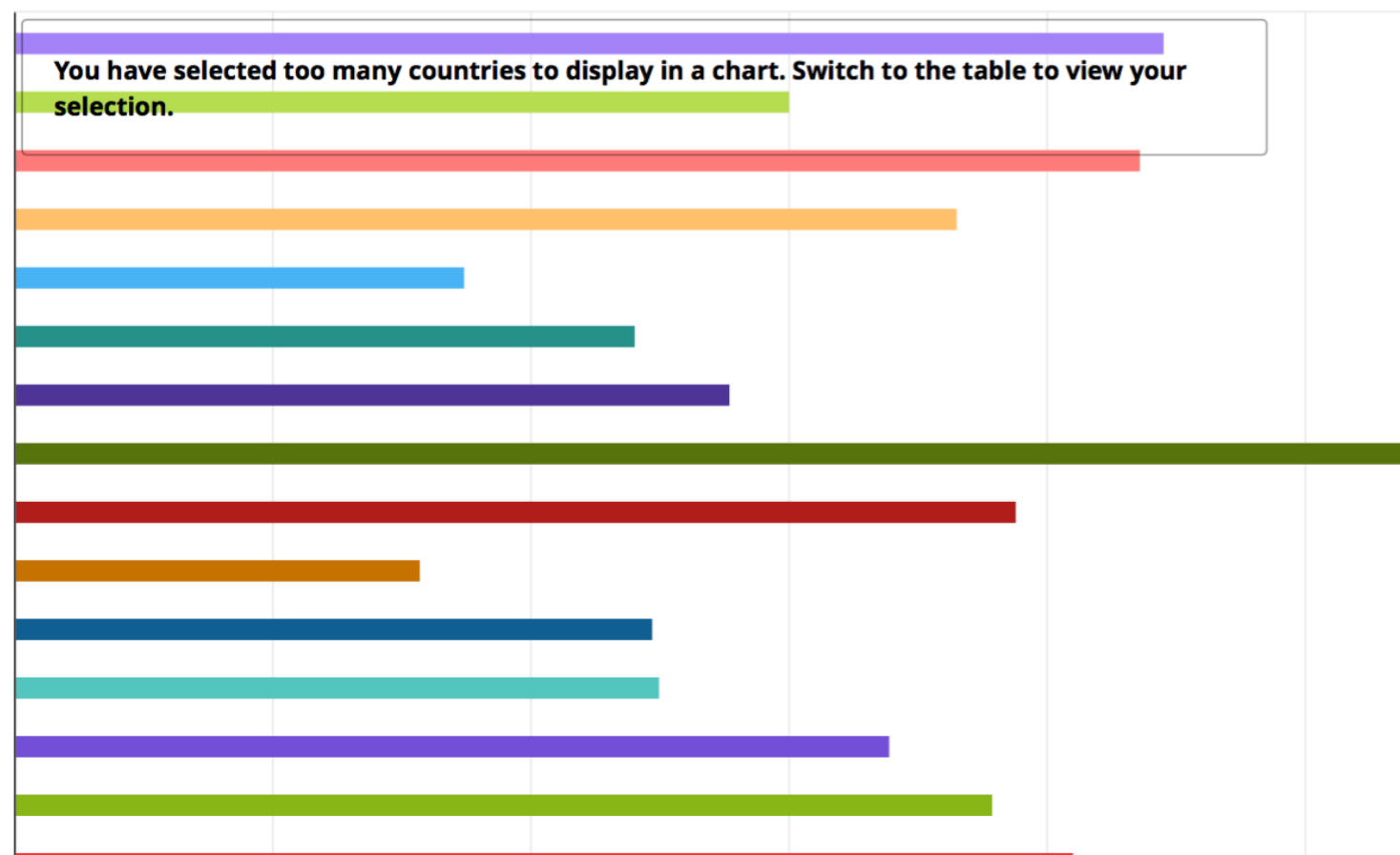EDUCATION CATEGORY [Total], LEVEL OF EDUCATION [Tertiary education]
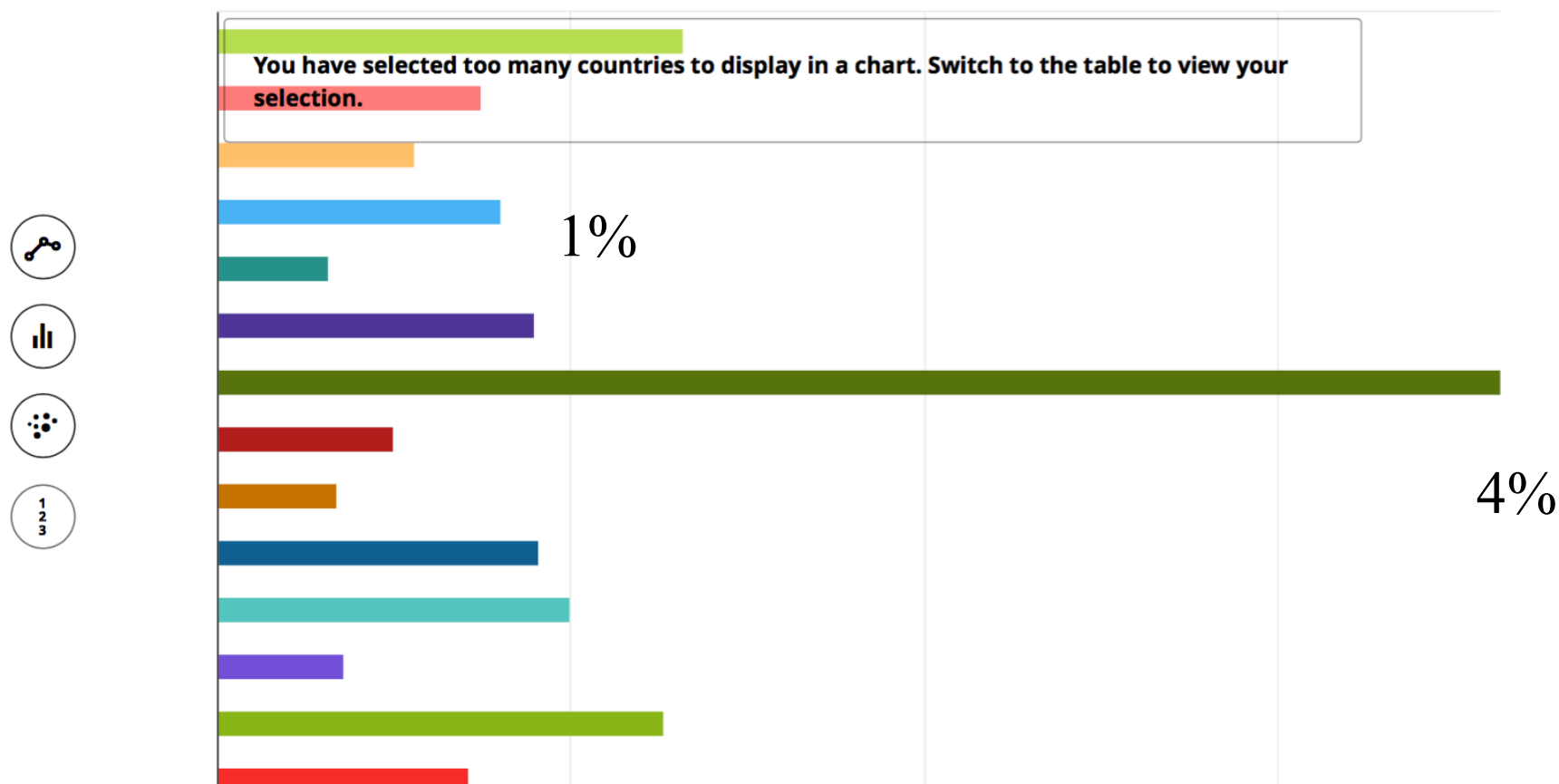
http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-fin-total-gdp_total#slideoutsearch

Expenditure on education as % of total government expenditure (all sectors) between 2009 and 2014
EDUCATION CATEGORY [Total], LEVEL OF EDUCATION [Total]

> **You have selected too many countries to display in a chart. Switch to the table to view your selection.**

http://uis.unesco.org/africa-indicator/edu_africa-fin-total-edu_exp_r_gov_exp

MOOCS

- **Massive open online course**
  - Online, distance education
  - High participation
  - Open access usually using Internet
  - Introduced in 2006 but grew in 2012

- Course Material
  - Taped lectures, readings, assignments
  - Interactive forums to support community interactions among students and instructors

Approach

- Models Open License vs Close license
    - Open License vs Close license (content, structure)
    - Free vs paid
        - Certificates

- Popular Mooc Platforms
    - Coursera
    - Udacity
    - Tedx

Moocs in Education in Africa

- **Target Higher education**
  - But already low enrollment in higher education (6%)

- **Association with degree**
  - No often structured curriculum
  - Online degrees (often from western univ), courses on MOOcs platform are costly
  - May require good internet access
    - Most schools in Africa do not have broadband access
    - Teachers may not be ICT-skilled
  - As implemented, Moocs will likely have marginal impact on the number of educated youth in Africa

Moocs in Education in Africa

- **Can Mooc Increase the quality of education?**
  - Many courses targeting fundamentals and applied
  - Target also business, offer course certificate
  - Can provide material for teachers in Africa as well as students
  - Courses are kept up to date
  - Can help improve quality of higher education in Africa
    - Curriculum sharing with other universities

Conclusion

- As implemented, Moocs will likely have marginal impact on the number of educated youth in Africa

- Can help improve quality of higher education in Africa

- Some Requirements:
  - Investment in the internet accessibility for schools
  - Teachers training
  - Extend platforms to high schools
  - PPP
  - New models most appropriate for African Context are needed
    - Offline material
    - Hubs and instructors on site
    - Acceptable by businesses

Thank You!

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