

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing a large white cloud system over the ocean. A satellite with four solar panels is visible in the upper right corner. The text "CONNECTING TO DISASTERS" is overlaid in large white letters with a black outline.

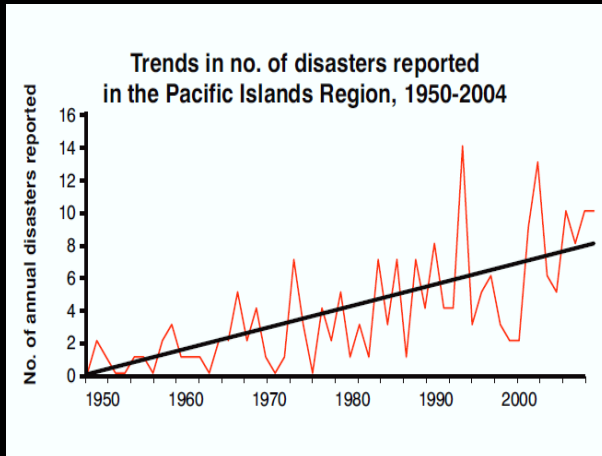
# CONNECTING TO DISASTERS

**Mobile Phones Mitigating Vulnerability to  
Natural Disasters in Vanuatu**

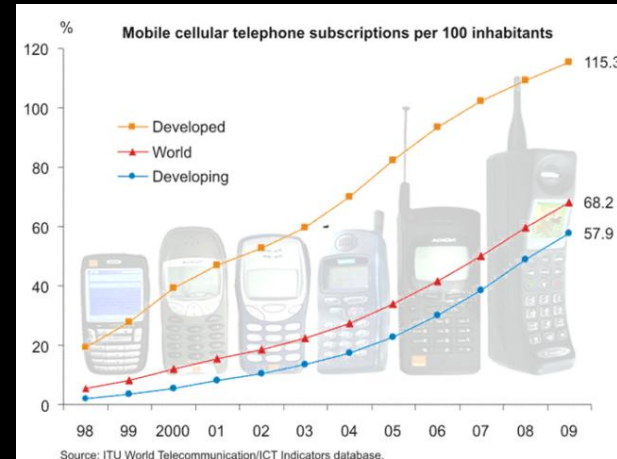
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# SIGNIFICANCE

## Disasters in the Pacific



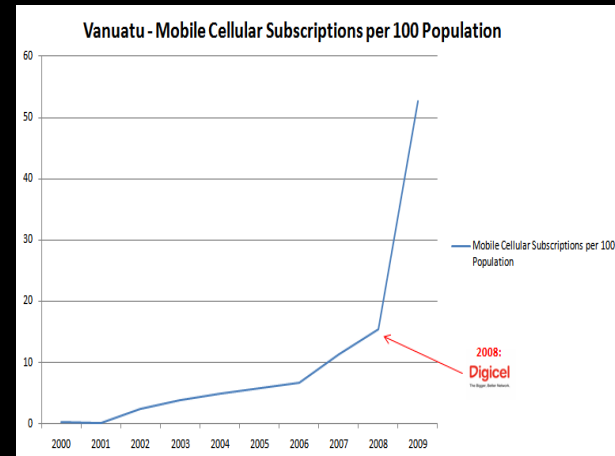
## Global Mobile Increase



## Case Study: Vanuatu



## Vanuatu Mobile Increase



# THEORETICAL CONTEXT

- Mobile Phones vs. Distance
  - Time-Space Compression (Harvey, 1989)
- Mobile Phones in Development
  - Africa: *Most cost-effective technology for connecting rural areas to urban development networks* (Lynch, 2003)



- Mobiles in Disaster Relief
  - Latin America - Haiti: *“Mobile phones played a vital role in the relief effort”* (Mulrow, 2010)
- Mobile phone experiences in the Pacific?

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1-What risks do natural disaster hazards present to rural communities?
- 2- What is the capacity of current mobile phone infrastructure to facilitate communication with rural communities before, during and after a natural disaster?
- 3- How are mobile phones currently being used in disaster risk management systems to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters?
- 4- How will employing the use of mobile phones in disaster management processes decrease the vulnerability of communities at risk to natural disasters?

# OVERVIEW OF METHODS

Research Question	Research Base/Sample	Methods
What risks to natural disaster hazards present to rural communities in Vanuatu?	New Zealand - UN/NGO Reports - Case Studies	- Grey Data Analysis - Literature Review
What is the capacity of current mobile phone infrastructure to facilitate communication with isolated communities in Vanuatu?	Vanuatu - Digicel & TVL Reps - Rural Communities	- Key Informant Interviews - Survey Questionnaires
How are mobile phones currently being used in disaster management systems to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters?	New Zealand - Pacific: Case Study Vanuatu	- Literature Review - Case Study Analysis - Key Informant Interviews
How will employing the use of mobile phones in disaster management systems decrease the vulnerability of communities at risk to natural disasters?	NZ Vanuatu	- Case Study Analysis/Lit - Key Informant Interviews - Survey Questionnaires

# OUTCOMES?

- Understand the contribution Mobile phones can make to disaster warning systems and disaster relief operations in Vanuatu
- Contribute to the literature surrounding disaster risk management in the Pacific
- Inform policy and future disaster planning and management operations





# QUESTIONS?

