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Port Moresby, January 1 (RHC)-- In Papua New Guinea, 15 people are missing and feared dead after heavy rains triggered a landslide near an informal gold mine in a remote rural area.

Three children are among those feared buried alive in their encampment at the base of a mountain, where miners pan for gold to scratch out a living.

Some of the world's biggest mining companies, including Rio Tinto, have extracted vast mineral wealth from Papua New Guinea for decades, leaving a path of environmental destruction behind, while most miners live in poverty.

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