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Mani's story is typical of the 20,000 children we help in India every year.

These children are part of our railway family, and they need your help.

Please become a PLATFORM committee member and help us raise the £2.5 million it will take to help these children over the next 3 years.

**children** RAILWAY  
THE VOICE FOR STREET CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

## SOS: I need a platform to a better future

My name is Mani. I am 8 years old and I live in Mumbai, India.

When my dad died, my mum got married again. After a while, my stepfather started beating me with a belt when my mum wasn't there. It hurt a lot, but if I'd told my mum I would have made her cry. So I had to run away. Now my home is Mumbai's railway terminal.

Most of the time, I wander around on my own. Sometimes I collect plastic bottles. A man gives me money for them. If I find enough, I can buy some food. At night, I can sometimes find a box or some paper to sleep under. When I am too hungry, I try to sleep so I can't feel it. I miss my mum the most at night-time.

You have to be careful who you talk to around here. I don't take anything anyone offers me. I don't know what they will make me do if I go with them. Things like that scare me a lot. I miss playing with my brother. But I can't go home because my stepfather would be very angry with me. I don't know the way home anyway now. I'm lost.

I wish I had somewhere safe to live and enough food to eat. I wish I had things to hope for and look forward to. But I don't have any hope because I don't have anyone to help me.

A lot of people have let me down.

Will you?

