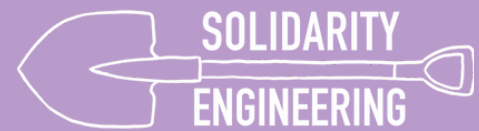




# Empowering Displaced Ukrainian Families: WASH Solutions at Phoenix House



*In an effort to expand its mission, Solidarity Engineering is partnering with Volunteer Action to support internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine at the Phoenix House shelter, focusing on delivering humanitarian resources and improving well-being for families displaced by the war.*

## The Context

The war in Ukraine has resulted in one of the largest internal displacement crises, with nearly 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of mid-2025. Many face inadequate living conditions, limited access to essential services and insufficient support to rebuild their lives after displacement.

Phoenix House, managed by Jay Rivera of Volunteer Action, is set to become a crucial resource for IDPs evacuating from frontline areas. Established in a repurposed orphanage built in 1870, Phoenix House provides free accommodations for families affected by the conflict, with space available for 12 families (totaling 46 individuals and their pets), primarily consisting of single mothers with children and elderly family members. The facility encourages families to transition to more permanent housing when possible.

During their tenure at Phoenix House, families are offered free meals, vocational trainings, and psychological support. The guiding philosophy of the shelter is one of communal participation and agency. All residents are encouraged to contribute back to the shelter, assisting with daily tasks, such as cleaning, cooking, and teaching.

Solidarity Engineering's (SE) partnership with Volunteer Action will enhance living conditions primarily through Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and infrastructure projects.

As international funding decreases, grassroots organizations like SE and Volunteer Action are essential in filling critical service gaps. By leveraging local resources and collaborating closely with shelter management, SE aims to improve hygiene and health outcomes, maximizing humanitarian impact with efficiency.





## Exploratory Pilot Project (Oct 2025)

In October 2025, Solidarity Engineering conducted a successful pilot project in Ukraine, aimed at assessing the feasibility of ongoing support for Phoenix House. Jona Block, Projects & Media Coordinator, visited Ukraine to engage directly with shelter management and coordinate future programming.

### Key Activities:

- **Site Assessment:** Conducted a thorough Site Assessment of Phoenix House to identify the specific needs of residents and to assess the existing infrastructure and available programming.
- **Hygiene Supply Distribution:** Delivered a two month supply of essential hygiene and cleaning products to the current residents. This distribution addresses *immediate needs* and ensures that IDPs have access to necessary items for personal care and sanitation, including: soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, toilet paper, menstrual pads, bleach, mops, and much more.
- **Conducted a Solar Energy Assessment:** Completed an evaluation for a solar microgrid system. In conjunction with our partners at Footprint Project, we are developing a project to build on the Phoenix House's incoming solar panel setup to add a Mobile Powerwall Unit.

To read a detailed report on the October Pilot Project, follow this link: <https://arcg.is/1fv0DX3>



### From Hardship to Healing: A Beneficiary's Story

Lyudmila, an elderly Ukrainian woman displaced by the Russian invasion, faced unimaginable hardship when her village was encircled by Russian troops. While burying her mother, she was injured by a drone attack, suffering a disabling injury to her leg.

Thankfully, Phoenix House welcomed her, providing a safe refuge to heal and rebuild. Within weeks, she began teaching children traditional songs, baking for residents, and creating floral arrangements. While the trauma of displacement remains, the support at Phoenix House offers stability, safety, and hope for a brighter future.





## Active & Upcoming Programming at Phoenix House

- Infrastructure Upgrades:** Solidarity Engineering has partnered with Xylem Watermark to secure a \$10,000 grant for renovating bathrooms at Phoenix House, making them disability accessible. This renovation is essential for accommodating incoming residents, especially veterans with physical disabilities. As the primary grantee, SE will oversee the project, coordinate construction logistics, and handle funds and reporting. Additionally, we plan to secure another \$10,000 in early 2026 during the upcoming grant cycle.
  - Remaining funds will be used to expand and renovate the on-site well to accommodate the water needs for the growing population at Phoenix House.
- Ongoing Hygiene Support:** Committed to provide an additional hygiene supply drop of equivalent size as the first, ensuring that residents have the necessary resources as they navigate their displacement with dignity.
- STEM Education Programming:** Distributed Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) education materials with Volunteer Action to support displaced children, addressing the educational gaps of children at Phoenix House. Current children enrolled in a local school were tested and deemed to be one year behind.
- Women's Health Initiatives:** Developing a plan to incorporate women's health programming at Phoenix House, which includes hiring a local women's health promoter, conducting surveys, providing hygiene kits, and coordinating reproductive health workshops.

### Supporting Affected Ukrainians Together

Our collaborative efforts with Volunteer Action have already led to significant improvements, including essential infrastructure upgrades, educational resources for displaced children, and multiple months worth of crucial hygiene and sanitation supplies.

As our expansion into Ukraine develops, we are dedicated to ensuring that our programming evolves in response to the needs of the community. Your support is vital in helping us sustain and expand these efforts, ensuring that no affected Ukrainian is neglected during this challenging time.

Follow this link to donate directly:

**[Support Solidarity Engineering in Ukraine](#)**

Reach out to our Program Contact for more information:

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