

Gravity Water, Nepal

For the crossing borders minor we were looking for an assignment in the direction of our study Industrial Design engineering. We were also interested in sustainable development goal 6, about clean water and sanitation. In the end, we found the organisation Gravity Water. It is a U.S. based non-profit organisation. They have projects in Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. Their mission is to turn rain into safe drinking water for schools in need around the world.

Our assignment was to design a handwashing station and infographic for schools in Nepal as an extension of their current system. Unfortunately, due to the covid-19 situation, it was not possible for us to go to Nepal and we also didn't feel comfortable with it. Even though, we did not actually go abroad, we had an amazing international experience! We got to learn a lot about Nepal and the organisation Gravity Water. We also had a lot of online meetings with the executive director/founder and national director of Nepal.

Next to the design of the handwashing station we also conducted a field study research about the design elements of an educational infographic and how to design for the Nepali culture in particular. It was very interesting to learn how radically different the dutch culture is compared to the Nepali culture. The infographic explains the importance of hygiene to children in Nepal and will help explain how to use the handwashing station. In the image below you can see our final design of the handwashing station together with the educational infographic. We learned a lot about how to perform research, so it was a good preparation for our bachelor assignment.

What we liked most about this assignment was that we could really help people and contribute to solving the SDG. Since the assignment was in the direction of our study, we could use our expertise to help. It is exciting to know that our final design and recommendation will be considered when the actual construction will be built a few months after concluding the crossing borders minor. We really enjoyed the responsibility that was given to us by Gravity Water.

