

Society

Supporting communities through corporate donations, sponsorship and employee volunteering extends beyond philanthropy: it promotes our science-based industry and inspires our staff to help make Roche a successful, sustainable business and a committed corporate citizen. We focus on programmes that are aligned with our business model of innovation, sustainability, impact and collaboration.

Our business enables us to help those most in need around the world and we promote sustainable access to our medicines and diagnostics. Drug donations do not generally form part of our access strategy. However, we donate medicines in disaster relief and pandemic situations if they are of value. For example, Roche Shanghai supplied more than 53,000 vials of Rocephin, an antibiotic to treat infections, and provided funding for local Red Cross assistance programmes in the wake of the Sichuan earthquake in China.

We do not publish detailed financial information regarding our community investment. Instead, we measure the success of our support by the impact we have. For example, our Roche Children's Walk has enabled 3,000 children from 60 villages in Malawi to receive hot meals, health check-ups and education at day centres, 1,200 primary school children to benefit from eight new classrooms and 98 students to attend secondary school.

A set of standards for communicating and measuring the impact of donations and non-commercial sponsorship are under development and will guide and align best practice throughout the organisation.

Community support in 2008 by area

	% of total
Humanitarian and social projects	86%
Science and education	11%
Arts and culture	2%
Community and environment	1%

Supporting the scientists of the future

Roche and its foundations – including the Fondation d'entreprise Roche in France, the Roche Foundation in the US and the global Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation – support research and education programmes around the world to promote advances in science, medical and scientific education, and to support young scientists. This encourages the innovation on which our business depends and nurtures the next generation of scientists we need to sustain our success.

Since 2007 we have offered a two-part Genetics Education Programme for educators in Switzerland and Germany, which combines genetics science theory education and practical laboratory exercises. The course raises awareness of the ethics and policies relevant to genetics science and demonstrates the science behind modern life-saving medicines.

In the US, Roche has been collaborating with science education leaders for 18 years to provide a two-day workshop and resources on teaching bioethics for secondary school teachers. More than 1,500 teachers have participated, challenging over 38,000 students with innovative approaches to contemporary science learning.

In partnership with the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Roche supports a one-day continuing education programme for primary and secondary teachers. The first session in 2008 engaged 130 teachers and provided hands-on activities which addressed national standards on science and mathematics education.

In 2008 the Roche Research Foundation concluded its sponsorship activities. A new, distinct initiative was launched to promote young talent and research excellence globally. The international Roche Postdoc Fellowship programme aims to support outstanding young scientists in cooperative research and development projects between Roche and academic institutions.

The programme will strengthen international scientific exchange and nurture the development of specialist knowledge, new ideas and creative talent. We have so far awarded 33 fellowships. In the next two years, we plan to award up to 100 in various scientific disciplines.

Encouraging innovation in the arts

Roche has been a patron of contemporary arts and music since our inception. We believe that innovation in music and art is closely related to the scientific innovation at the heart of our business.

'Roche Continents' was launched in 2007 in collaboration with the Salzburg Festival in Austria to encourage young people to explore contemporary classical music. In 2008 we invited a second group of 100 students from 70 European universities to the festival. Participants attended a series of lectures and workshops on creativity in art and science as well as concerts.

Roche Commissions sponsors new musical works by outstanding contemporary composers. In 2008 George Benjamin's 'Duet' for Piano and Orchestra received its premiere and the next commission was awarded to Toshio Hosokawa.

Supporting our communities

Roche strives to make a difference in our local communities. We encourage employees to identify local projects where we can make a valuable contribution, and to make their own contribution through volunteering or fundraising.

Employee donations to diverse community projects globally and disaster relief are coordinated by the Roche Employee Action and Charity Trust (Re&Act), set up in 2006 as an independent charitable organisation.

For example, Roche employees supported emergency relief efforts in Peru through Re&Act after a devastating earthquake in 2007. Since then we have continued to support the long-term project to reconstruct the destroyed village of Chocos. In continuing partnership with Re&Act, we provided skills, technical super-

vision and materials needed to rebuild houses and local community buildings. We have also enabled the construction of a dam that will aid economic and social recovery.

The Roche Children's Walk (formerly the Global Roche Employee AIDS Walk) extended its scope to all vulnerable children in 2008. In 2008 14,000 employees from 100 sites walked around five kilometres each to raise an estimated 1,200,000 Swiss francs, including the amount matched by the company. While 35% was contributed via company affiliates to local children's charities, the balance was donated through Re&Act to our long-term partners, the European Coalition of Positive People (www.ecpp.co.uk) and UNICEF Switzerland, for their work in Malawi.

Roche has provided funding for the Phelophepa Health Care Train since it began over 15 years ago. Each year, this mobile clinic delivers health care to more than 45,000 rural South Africans in some of the country's most remote areas, where there is just one doctor for every 4,000 patients.

Roche also sponsors a number of initiatives that encourage involvement in sciences, promote awareness of health issues and help address critical community needs. Examples of these include:

- Brighton Science Festival in the UK – community-based promotion of science in a creative, artistic and novel way to people of all ages
- World Kidney Day – spreading the message that kidney disease is common, harmful and treatable
- Roche Blue Bicycle Project in Turkey – a public awareness campaign for cancer
- The Heart Stopper challenge – raising funds for Heart Children New Zealand
- Join Your Smile – an outreach programme for local children and families suffering from poverty in Argentina.

More on the web

- Roche 'n' Jazz: <http://www.roche-n-jazz.net>
- Re&Act: <http://react.roche.com>