

Our SHE goals and performance

Use of water

The Earth might seem like it has abundant water, but in fact less than 1 percent is available for human use. The rest is either salt water found in oceans, fresh water frozen in the polar ice caps, or too inaccessible for practical usage. Where the demand for sufficient amounts of clean water is increasing and globally is set to dwarf supply in the foreseeable future, Roche faces physical, reputational and regulatory risks. Through water conservation, we can realize opportunities such as reduced operating costs, increased profit margin and enhanced reputation. Roche needs constant, high-quality water in sufficient amounts for production purposes and local hydro-based power. Hence, declines or disruptions in supply could undermine operations. In areas of water scarcity the competition for water increases. Roche works with local stakeholders to avoid opposition to industrial water withdrawals. Local conflicts damage reputation. Water scarcity, coupled with increased opposition results in water reallocations, regulations and stricter water quality standards. Poor quality water entering Roche results in higher costs for purification when the costs of water and wastewater services are already rising and will continue to rise.

In 2020 we withdrew 14.9 million m³ of water from different sources. Of this, 2.8 million m³ or approx. 19% was consumed, becoming a constituent part of a product, being vaporised in refrigeration or air conditioning plants or used for irrigation.

Approximately 55% of the withdrawn water was not chemically contaminate and was therefore directly discharged. We purified 45% of the withdrawn water in an effluent treatment plant as chemically contaminated waste water, before discharging it. Our use of water has remained relatively unchanged over the past ten years. Worldwide we have withdrawn, on average, 17.9 million m³ of water per year. Of this, we consumed an average of approximately 3.2 million m³ per year.

Roche has set a SHE goal to reduce water consumption per employee (weighted by water scarcity) by 10% by 2020. We have made excellent progress against this goal since 2015 (see **Figure**). In 2019, we were already 15% below the goal we set in 2015. In 2020, we finalized this goal with a 20.5% achievement below target (381 vs. 479.68).

Water consumption (1000 m³) weighted to scarcity / employee

