Our SHE goals and performance

Use of water

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 2018 we withdrew 16.6 million m^3 of water from different sources. Of this, 3.4 million m^3 or approx. 20.5% was consumed, becoming a constituent part of a product, being vaporised in refrigeration or air conditioning plants or used for irrigation.

Approximately 60% of the withdrawn water was not chemically contaminate and was therefore directly discharged. We purified 40% of the withdrawn water in an effluent treatment plant as chemically contaminated waste water, before discharging it.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 Worldwide we have withdrawn, on average, 18.8 million m^3 of water per year. Of this, we consumed an average of approximately 3.2 million m^3 per year.

The majority of the withdrawn water comes from municipal sources (46.3%) followed by 31.1 % from surface water (Table 1).

Table 1: Water Sources

Source	Volume of water withdrawn (Mio m^3)	Percent of Total
Ground Water	3.4	20.7
Surface Water	5.2	31.1
Rain	0.05	1.6
Municipal	7.7	46.3