

#SheisWe

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Rosemary Achieng

Kenya – She empowers, we are stronger

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It took a determined woman to ensure that Kenyan flower pickers have rights too! She is Rosemary Achieng. #SheisWe <http://eudevdays.eu/sheiswe/stories/rosemary-achieng/> #EDD18

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Story

"Previously, I believed that it was only men that can do some jobs." Rosemary Achieng is a single mother of three sons. She lives in Kenya on the shore of the Lake Naivasha where she works for a flower producer. Her company decided to get Fairtrade certification. Following this, Rosemary got a permanent employment contract, better working conditions and among other benefits, university scholarships for her children.

"I am happy and proud that my sons have been able to study." In the Kenyan flower industry, women often face low salaries, exposure to pesticides and human right abuses such as discrimination and sexual harassment. So Rosemary, blessed by her newly acquired stability, decided to lead by example.

She now sits in her workplace's health and safety committee after previously serving in the gender committee. By being vocal, she participated in improving flower workers' conditions. "That is especially important for the women workers, as they are often not aware of their rights. I organized trainings for them. Now they are much stronger than before." Thanks to her leadership position, she stands up for everybody's rights. She is We.