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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK SUPPORTS AFYA FOUNDATION TO MEET URGENT NEEDS IN ST. VINCENT FOLLOWING VOLCANIC ERUPTION

NEW YORK CITY, April 28, 2021 — In response to the eruption on St. Vincent of La Soufrière on April 9, 2021, UJA-Federation of New York has issued a \$25,000 grant to Afya Foundation to send critical supplies to the island.

On April 24, Afya, in partnership with Jet Blue and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, delivered 20 pallets of items requested by St. Vincent's Ministry of Health, including KN95 masks, cloth masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, warm up jackets, blankets, sheets, and adult diapers. The supplies, valued at over \$200,000 USD, are being distributed to dozens of shelters across St. Vincent and neighboring islands and to healthcare providers caring for all those affected by the eruption.

Effects of the eruption have included displacement of more than 20,000 people (nearly 20% of the population) and loss of power and running water for many of those remaining in their homes, respiratory distress and severe respiratory disease due to volcanic ash and gas inhalation, and an increase in Covid-19 cases due to sheltering in close quarters.

About UJA-Federation of New York

Working with a network of hundreds of nonprofits, UJA extends its reach from New York to Israel to nearly 70 other countries around the world, touching the lives of 4.5 million people each year. To date, UJA has allocated nearly \$67 million to help respond to the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Aid has supported New Yorkers facing food insecurity, UJA partner organizations providing essential health and human services to New Yorkers, Jewish Community Centers, low-income students, single parents, and ensuring dignified Jewish burials. For more information, please visit www.ujafedny.org.

About Afya Foundation

Since 2008, Afya Foundation has been fulfilling its mission to improve healthcare delivery in underserved communities around the world. Afya accomplishes this goal by coordinating with local medical professionals on the ground and facilitating customized shipments of rescued surplus medical supplies and equipment that improve local health systems. Our regional network of medical supply donors and volunteers enables Afya to meet immediate humanitarian needs in areas devastated by natural disaster or public health crises in tandem with our long-term programs to address chronic health disparities.